THE

WANDERER.

VOL. II.

THE

WANDERER:

OR,

A COLLECTION OF

ORIGINAL

TALES AND ESSAYS,

FOUNDED UPON FACTS;

ILLUSTRATING

THE VIRTUES AND VICES OF THE PRESENT AGE

IN WHICH ARE INTRODUCED

The Oriental Travels of a Learned Mahometan of the Last Century.

INTERSPERSED WITH ORIGINAL POETRY

BY CHARLES FOTHERGILL, ESQ.

"Nolumus leges naturæ mutari."

"We will not suffer the laws of Nature to be changed."

VOLUME II.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR WYNNE AND SCHOLEY, AND JAMES WALLIS, 46, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1803.

By J. D. Dewick, Aldersgate-Street.

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THE WANDERER.

TALE FIFTH.

THE severest misfortunes of adversity are incapable of crushing an attachment that is founded upon real affection. The following story goes to prove this assertion, and will also shew that the tie of affection has greater power over the mind, than any other consideration.

——————" Art cold?
" I am cold myself. Where is this straw my fellow?
" The art of our necessities is strange,
" That can make vile things precious:
" Come, your novel."—

The facts contained in the following narration were transmitted in a letter from Moscow in the year 1778.

A party of Englishmen making the tour of Russia, among other places that were deemed

worthy of observation, visited the dungeons of Calouskoi Ostrog, the principal prison in the city of Moscow, and one of the party sent these particulars to his friend in England:—"In visiting this gloomy receptacle of human woe I met with so rare an instance of strong attachment and uncommon generosity, that I deem it worthy of being made known to the world, that thousands may benefit by the example of such an unparalleled instance of disinterested friendship.

In the most wretched compartment of this most melancholy mansion of perpetual misery, stood an immense wooden cage, barricaded on every side by massy bolts of iron. As my guide pointed it out for my observation, a deep and hollow groan issued from the thick gloom that nearly concealed it from my view, and as I approached the horrid spot, I was just able to perceive through a small grated window, high in the solid wall, the spectral form of a human being, lying in the most obscure corner, bound down to the damp earth by a huge chain of iron.

The pale light that gleamed through the narrow casement, struck only upon his countenance, and the gigantic length of his figure was almost concealed in the dismal gloom that shewed no-

thing distinctly, but which leaving full scope for the workings of the imagination, increased the horror, already excited by the miserable spectacle.

This wretch was a murderer. Every line and every furrow in his strongly marked countenance evinced the fall and depravity of a mighty mind. The perpetration of every dreadful crime had stamped an additional mark upon it that never could be mistaken for the effect of any other than the most diabolical of deeds.

As the wan light beamed upon him, I could perceive he had dark curling hair, which stood all dishevelled from his head, while large knotted locks fell over his forehead down to his black, long, horizontal, and bushy brows, that nearly met over a long aqueline nose, and these seemed torn and rent by the most terrible and conflicting passions. Yet they were bent in gloomy frown, over his large black eyes which were fixed in a steady and immoveable stare upon me, and seemed at once to express an untameable and unsubdued spirit, the keen fire of ungoverned passions, and the dark workings of a mighty mind debased from all good purposes, and bent only upon evil deeds. His haggard cheeks were deeply furrowed by

strong lines, and a bold projecting chin curled from his terrible front, which altogether bore the indelible characters of hardened guilt, and struck the spectator with a dread bordering upon terror.

Every thing bad might be apprehended from this man, who not only (like other miserable wretches that prey upon society) wished to do evil, but had the power in an eminent degree, for he possessed abilities that might have raised him to the highest degree of excellence in any profession of life. But those rare talents which he possessed from the bounty of Nature, had been early perverted and entirely corrupted, and his character was not now to be changed.

In his youth he had been like too great a portion of mankind.

" Self flatter'd, unexperienc'd, high in hope,
" When young, with sanguine cheer and streamers gay,
" We cut our cable, launch into the world,
" And fondly dream each wind and star our friend;
" All, in some darling enterprize embark'd:
" But where is he can fathom its event?
" Amid a multitude of artless hands,
" Ruin's sure perquisite! her lawful prize!
" Some steer aright; but the bleak blast blows hard,
" And puffs them wide of hope: with hearts of proof,
" Full against wind and tide, some win their way;

"And when strong effort has deserv'd the port,
"And tugg'd it into view, 'tis won! 'tis lost!
"Tho' strong their oar, still stronger is their fate:
"They strike; and while they triumph, they expire.
"In stress of weather, most; some sink outright;
"O'er them, and o'er their names, the billows close;
"To morrow knows not they were ever born.
"Others a short memorial leave behind,
"Like a flag floating, when the bark's ingulph'd;
"It floats a moment and is seen no more,
"One Cæsar lives: a thousand are forgot."

My attention was soon called to the contemplation of another object equally, if not more distressing.

Near the door of this horrid cage was erected a vile shed that was barely able to shelter one of the most miserable objects I ever had the misfortune to behold. Outstretched on the damp earth appeared an old woman with her haggard cheek resting against the bars of the cage. She was covered by a scanty portion of filthy rags, which were scarcely sufficient to screen her decayed and shrivelled form from the gaze of strangers. Her hollow eye-balls were deeply sunk within her wrinkled front, and from her hooked nose and skinny lips, thin rheum was perpetually oozing. Her dreadfully emaciated form seemed to bespeak

alike the most agonising distress of mind and the most deadly state of body.

I could perceive, that as her livid cheek rested on the bars of the cage, her eyes remained fixed, sorrowful, and immoveable, upon the unhappy man within it, and evinced an expression of grief far beyond the luxury of tears. She sometimes spoke to him with uncommon interest, but she never once so much as glanced her eye upon any other object; not even upon us who were strangers and foreigners, and who appeared so much to excite the attention of the other wretches that languished in these dreadful dungeons.

There was something so remarkable in her appearance and position, and she wore such a peculiar air of extreme woe, that I requested the Aid du Camp who accompanied us would ask the jailer who she was.

The murderer within the cage immediately replied in the French language, and in the most terrible voice "Elle est a moi" Being much struck with the circumstance that such a wretch should have any body belonging to him, and remaining with him in such a situation, and also at the singularity of his reply, being made in the French language, which I could have so little

expected from a Russian criminal, confined in a dungeon at Moscow, I earnestly begged our conductor would enquire into their story.

The jailer informed me that this murderer was a man of noble family, and at an early age had come to the inheritance of a very considerable estate, in the cultivation of which, it was necessary to employ a vast number of slaves (that being the dreadful term by which the Russian peasantry are denominated and esteemed); and that nothing could exceed the brutality of this man's conduct towards those unhappy beings; being guilty of the greatest cruelties and the most atrocious actions towards them.

It was not an unfrequent act of this hideous monster to order his inoffensive and ignorant peasantry to suffer the most agonising death under the torture of the hellish lash; and this for the most trifling offences, if an offence at all, but much oftener merely for the satisfaction his diabolical heart felt while domineering and tormenting his unresisting fellow creatures.

For a long time his infernal actions were screened by the ever powerful shield of rank, fortune, and consequently influence; but, at length the particulars of a barbarous murder attended

with unusual shocking particulars, coming to the knowledge of men high in power, and being generally known by the public, the wretch was seized and dragged to that dungeon in which I beheld him, braving his fate, under the frown of gloomy malignity and the hardihood of consummate iniquity.

"When the searching eye of heaven is hid
"Behind the globe, and lights the lower world,
"Then thieves and robbers range abroad unseen,
"But when, from under this terrestrial ball,
"He fires the proud tops of the eastern pines,
"Then murders, treasons, and detested sins,
"Stand bare and naked, trembling at themselves."

Notwithstanding the magnitude of this man's crimes his relations had sufficient power to prevent his being brought to trial, on which occasion he must inevitably have been doomed to an ignominious death, which would effectually have sullied the *fair name*, and intailed eternal disgrace upon the *noble title* of such a *distinguished* family.

Yet it is said that under the mild reign of the present Empress Catharine, no unfortunate human being has suffered that capital punishment, except the impostor Pugatchy, who pretended to be the

late Emperor, and who had gained over to his party fifty thousand Cassacks, by whose assistance he had hoped to obtain the imperial diadem.

Under these circumstances then, this villain remained confined to the narrow and horrid confines of his cage without the anticipation of any other punishment; and he had been a close prisoner for the period of three years when I beheld him in that cage, but before he had been removed to it, he bad suffered seven years imprisonment in one of larger dimensions.

The miserable wretch that existed under the shed had been his wet nurse, and had imbibed such a strong affection for him, that when he was first seized and dragged to prison, she solicited and obtained permission to dwell near him in his dungeon, and there had this affectionate and faithful, but mistaken woman, indured the terrible severity of that inhospitable climate, under which Moscow is situated, for ten long years.

Continuing exposed not only to the scoffs, revilings, and contumely of the abandoned and profligate wretches around her, to the scorn or cold indifference of others, and to the keen rigour of Russian winters, with scarcely any covering or food, this woman exhibited an instance of gene-

rosity, disinterested friendship, and unbounded affection, that I could scarcely have believed possible to exist, had I not been an eye-witness of the truth of such an interesting fact.

She subsisted on the meanest possible fare, for like all the other prisoners, this murderer depended upon charity for the means of existence, and his share of the general stock, raised by the bounty of the public, never exceeded two shillings per week, but was very often considerably less; this being the case, the unhappy woman who attended him, not only deprived herself of a large portion of her own food, but even begged on her particular account from those that visited the dungeon and all that she gained by these means she gave to him.

Thus altogether without motive of reward, save that which she derived from the heavenly consolation of her own feelings, did this astonishing woman endure for so many years all the calamities and dreadful evils attendant upon such a miserable state of being.

Yet amidst sufferings that would have born down the strongest of resolutions, this poor woman seemed to feel no other pain than that arising from the perpetual contemplation of the misery which the unworthy object of her attachment

was compelled to undergo, and which she endeavoured to mitigate by every means in her power.

I slipped some money into her hand, and she instantly, even without looking at it or me, thrust it through the bars of the cage and gave it to the prisoner, and it was not till after a long explanation on my part that I was able to convince her it was intended for herself, and even when she was assured I meant the charity for herself only, I could not prevail upon her to keep it.

This remarkable incident dwelt so strongly upon my imagination, that I could pay but little attention to the other departments of this hideous and loathsome receptacle for the most wretched outcasts of society; and upon my return home I dispatched the *Laquais de Louage* back to the prison with a further sum of money for the service of the miserable pair.

He departed in a moment and I saw no more of him until the next day when he came smiling to me, and appearing much delighted, told me he had delivered the money, and that the woman expressed the utmost gratitude. "Nothing, "said he, "could equal her joy, or the delight *of her children*, they (poor things) had never seen so

much money before and when it arrived they were absolutely starving."

I was not a little astonished when he mentioned children, for I was well assured the poor wretch in the prison, had had none for many, many years But upon examining this varlet a little further I found he had deceived me, and was consequently extremely angry, and was about to chastise him in the manner he deserved, when the fellow burst out into a violent fit of laughter, and said in very bad French, to this effect: "You intended to do a kindness, and I did not give the money as you directed me, but I gave it to a poor woman, that has a great number of children, whom I knew to be perishing for want; and as her distress was much greater than that of the woman in the prison, and as you meant to do a charity, I performed it, if you are angry with me for what I have done, I cannot now help it."

This blunt declaration not only dissipated all my anger but gave me such heart-felt delight that I could scarcely refrain from clasping the hones and noble fellow in my arms; but before I rewarded him as he deserved, I thought proper to enquire into the truth of his tale, and I soon had the delightful satisfaction to find every thing as

he had stated. There was something so extraordinary in the character of this *Laquais*, that I enquired a little into the particulars of his life, by which I learnt he was born at Constantinople, and had there entered into the service of the French Ambassador, in which station he had managed to obtain some trifling knowledge of the French language.

After he had quitted that place he came along with some Frenchmen to Moscow, but his master dying soon after his arrival in this city, the *Laquais* was left hanging loose upon society with a precarious subsistance, but notwithstanding his straightened circumstances, he soon became famous in Moscow for his extraordinary generosity and benevolence towards the poor, and more especially towards those who were confined in the public prisons for trifling debts.

Both men and women are here imprisoned for very small sums, and whenever this benevolent *Laquias* (who in his humble sphere was not in any respect inferior or less worthy of praise than the justly celebrated and immortal Howard) had been able by dint of extreme industry, or by serving strangers as a valet-de-chambre, to raise a few roubles, he instantly flew

to the prisons and liberated the most unfortunate of the debtors, as far as his small fund would enable him.

Consider this story, all ye who riot in splendid affluence, and roll in superabundant luxury; ye, who would even deny the crumbs that fall from your overladen tables, and at the moment you are denying relief to a poor naked, hungry, and miserable fellow-being, who is perishing for want at your doors; you select the choicest bits of your delicacies, lavish your wealth and your carcassess upon some paultry insignificant brute, as a favorite lap-dog or cat, or parrot, &c. &c. but a day shall come when you shall behold beings like this inestimable *Laquais* (and who in this scene of vexation and disappointment fill stations so low and obscure that your proud vision cannot descend to their humble sphere of action), receive their eternal reward of joy and bliss, and glory, that knows no end.—When the Almighty God, and just disposer of human events, shall ride on the destructive whirlwind of returning chaos, and weigh the balance of fate, he will hold forth his mighty hand to those happy mortals who have laboured towards the extinction of evil, and have as far as was in their

power ameliorated the condition of their most distressed fellow creatures, and in the pathetic language of "I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me:" he will lead them into the mansions of everlasting joy and peace.

But unto the perversely ignorant, the proud, the cruel, the malignant, the tyrannical, the oppressive, the vicious, and the dissipated, who have rioted in a supposed security, on the soft couch of worldly ease, or the splendid throne of human power, without regarding the ends of their existence: the righteous God will turn unto them in the justness of his wrath, and command them to the regions of unutterable woe. "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not."

If these things have no weight with you, who have the means of doing so much good in your

power, and who do not exert them, at least, I should suppose, that unspeakable delight which the mind experiences when it has performed a great and meritorious action, is worthy of attainment, because no earthly pleasure or gratification, can in the smallest degree equal those heavenly sensations.

Determined to use my influence at court, towards the benefit of the miserable woman in the dungeons of Calouskoi Ostrog, I had no sooner arrived at St. Petersburg than I got the story related to the Empress, with a promise that no endeavours should be wanting in order to procure an effectual relief for her sufferings. But before the necessary steps were taken in her behalf, I was under the necessity of quiting the Russian Court and St. Petersburg together, upon my tour towards Britain.

"Who, who would live, my Narva, just to breath
"This idle air, and indolently run,
"Day after day, the still returning round
"Of life's mean offices, and sickly joys?
"But in the service of mankind to be
"A guardian God below—still to employ
"The mind's brave ardour in heroic aims,
"Such as may raise us o'er the groveling herd,
"And make us shine for ever—That is life."

THE

TRAVELS OF ABDALLAH

CONTINUED.

"Then farewel love! and farewel, youthful fires!
"A nobler warmth my kindled breast inspires.
"Far bolder notes the listening wood shall fill:
"Flow smooth, ye rivulets: and, ye gales be still.

FIRST EVENING.

TRAVELS OF ABDALLAH,

CONTINUED.

FIRST EVENING.

"Meek Pow'r! whose balmy-pinion'd gale,
"Steals o'er the flow'r enamell'd dale;
"Whose voice in gentle whispers near,
"Oft sighs to quiet's list'ning ear:
"As on her downy couch at rest,
"By thought's inspiring visions blest
"She sits, with white rob'd silence nigh,
"And musing heaves her serious eye,
"To mark the sun's glimm'ring ray,
"To catch the last pale gleam of day;
"Or sunk in sweet repose, unknown
"Lies on the wild hill's van alone;
"And sees thy gradual pencil flow
"Along the heav'n illumin'd bow."

As evening was now lowering over the landskip, and the heat no longer prevented our journey, I proceeded to Abdallah's tent, and having prepared our baggage, we again pursued our

journey along the northern banks of the Nerbedda, which majestically rolls along its mighty and fertilizing stream, through the rich province of Guzerat, and washes the walls of Baroche.

The fine prospects to our right and left were continually varying in interest and beauty, during a three hours journey; when we arrived at the town of Zinore, which is situated on the most lofty bank of the Nerbedda, and commands one of the richest views I ever beheld, over a luxuriant country; in which, woods, streams, beautiful gardens, lofty mountains, and fertile vallies, were intermingled in harmonising variety.

Had our journey been through the most ruthless desert, instead of the verdant plains of Guzerat, the interesting conversation of Abdallah would have shortened the distance and beguiled the tedious hours of the journey; and notwithstanding a great part of my attention was occupied in observing the country we passed through, yet I could not resist the inclination I felt to be acquainted with the remainder of his travels, and I therefore requested him to renew his narration, wchhe did as follows:

As I had passed hastily through the island of Salsette, on my former visit to Bombay, I had

omitted the sight of those celebrated caves, which are situated in the lofty mountains of that island.

As they are justly celebrated for being fine remains of ancient Hindoo architecture and sculpture, I determined to spend several days in an investigation of their peculiar beauties.

I have now seen much of the world, and have seen the most exalted and magnificent works of man, yet I deem the caves in the island of Elephanta, as the most astonishing works of human art and power; and rank them amongst the most wonderful remains of antiquity.

The vast ruins of Persepolis, of Palmyra, and of Balbec, astonish the beholder by their unbounded grandeur and magnificence; and the mighty Pyramids of Egypt strike him with awe and wonder, by their stupendous magnitude; but the lofty and holy temple of Salsette, and the most spacious of the hallowed caverns of the Elephanta, which are planned with no less o taste than of judgment; and whose sacred walls are adorned by numerous and interesting groups of figures, whose vast pillars display such an originality of architectural splendour, and which are most exquisitely proportioned,

and whose solemn recesses abound with a profusion of the finest sculpture that has been produced in the eastern world; all loudly demand and deserve our attention, for when we consider that these astonishing productions of human genius and labour were hewn by inches from the solid rock; and that all their nice proportions and beautiful ornaments were all worked in this manner, without piece or without seam: we can scarcely sufficiently admire the genius, or condemn the vast and misapplied labour of those beings who produced them.

Besides the large temples of Salsette, there are several hundred smaller excavations of a similar nature, each of which contain two apartments, a portico, and a cistern for water; and which are supposed to have been the dwellings of those holy men who officiated at the high altars of the Hindoo Gods.

When I contemplate the remains of those dark and barbarous ages of the world, and which every nation of civilized mankind seems to have undergone, my soul expands in fervent thankfulness and adoration to the God of the universe, and dwells, with a degree of ecstatic rapture on the prospect of that day; when all the outward

shews, and forms, and ceremonies, and empty parade of false religion shall be no more.—Oh, how my heart beats with fervent zeal, for the general welfare of mankind when I contemplate the decreasing gloom of ignorance and superstition. I am sensible of, and do now feel, the glad certainty that knowledge is increasing, and spreading like the smiles of heaven over all the plains of the earth. The picture of almost every domestic circle in society convinces me of this happy truth. I see the offspring excelling their parents in intellect and in knowledge, and I see the rising generation daring to think for themselves, at an age when their grandsires dared not even to open their mouths or form an idea; before their ignorant parents or superiors. Religion, the eternal light hy which the great and excellent guide all their steps, is gradually rising like the vast orb of day, in all its heavenly splendour, from those black and condensed clouds of mental darkness, which have so long, and in too great a degree, do yet darken her chief splendour.

The absurd and ridiculous laws of *all established churches* and *peculiar tenets*, become more and more contemptuous in the eyes of

those who are gradually parting from the film that has so long darkened their vision, and the blessed and eternal truths, and dispensations of Christianity, become less alloyed by the folly, and absurdity of the ignorant, superstitious, and affected portion of mankind. But this is not a place to enter into the wide field of religious disquisition, and I will renew my narrative.

When we are led to consider the great length of time that must have been necessary to complete these temples, of the many thousand artificers that must have been employed, and the astonishing genius of the architect, we become lost in a maze of thought.

History has preserved no account of their origin, and tradition has furnished no anecdote that conveys any instruction relating to them. Not even the name of the prince by whom they were projected, nor the age in which he lived has been recorded; or, if they were, the last traces of their existence have long ago rotted in oblivion; and even the puposes of their ordination remain to be conjectured.

As may easily be imagined, the suppositions and speculations of the public mob, have long

been variously, and with different success, formed upon the interesting subject.

Some affirm, with all the confidence of inspired prophets, that they were formed during the reign of Solomon, the mighty king of Israel; and others, with equal fervour of disputation, ascribe their origin, and all the honour attending it, to the renowned Alexander, the monarch and the leader of the Macedonian armies.

But suppose, for one moment, we allow that navigators were sent by Solomon (which is, altogether, an unlikely and improbable event) to the Indian shores, in search of rare and magnificent ornaments for the Temple of Jerusalem, is it not the height of absurdity to imagine that those travellers should so far deviate from the particular objects of their voyage, as to fall foul of the huge rocks on the Indian shores or islands, and spend whole years of unwearied labour, and of assiduity in excavating vast and unmeaning caverns, by way of *amusement* or *religious frolic?* It were, indeed, weak and more than foolish to give credence to such an idle supposition. And I believe it would be difficult to prove that the Macedonian hero penetrated further than the Indus, where he defeated

Porus; and all of his immense conquests and renowned exploits are accurately recorded, by justly celebrated historians. Besides, the sculpture, that surely ought to have much importance in such a decision, neither bears any resemblance to the Jewish history, nor yet to the exquisite taste and matchless execution of the Grecian arts.

I have frequently been much surprised at the vague opinions of persons, who ought to know better than to give way to such idle speculations. No one will deny the unsearchable antiquity of the Hindoo nations; and that almost all their arts, and sciences, and manners and cu toms, bear the undoubted stamp of originality, and that they materiallydiffer in the great characteristics of civilization, from all the nations of the world.

I think when these things are considered, and moreover that the Hindoos have, so far as we know, been much secluded from commerce and collisions with foreign nations, at least in the more early part of their history, it appears highly probable that these stupendous works of antiquity owe their origin to the ancient Hindoos; or Aboriginees of the country; notwithstanding their descendants no longer pay their religious homage to their deities.

The principal reason I have to offer in support of this supposition, is the existence of many similar excavations near Marre, and in other mountains situated in the very heart of the Mharatta empire; and the sculpture which adorns all these several caverns, is strikingly similar to that of the images, worshipped at this day, in the Hindoo Pagodas, and exactly resembling those rude statues which are so profusely scattered about the city of Dhuboy, where I hope we shall arrive to-morrow.

Those of the images which exhibit such a profusion of heads, and such a multiplicity of arms, are doubtless the personages of those Gods which stand first in the ancient Hindoo mythology. Their phiziogs being turned every way, denote their Almighty power and source of every blessing that accrues to mankind.

Our holy prophet, it is true, has strictly forbid every attempt to represent the Great Allah, the eternal God and mighty Father of the Universe. He has declared that in his wonderful works we may sufficiently behold him, contemplate the faculties and power of man, the noblest of all his works, and from him every gradation of animate or inanimate matter, down

to the meanest insect that crawls on the face of the earth, or the humblest flower of the valley; and in tracing the qualities and uses of the visible parts of this beauteous creation, we shall behold in every gradation, in every feature, and in every lineament, however minute, the existence and manifestations of their Great Author.

But this prohibition has not altogether operated so powerfully upon the followers of Allah, as it ought to do; and wishing to have the pleasure of contemplating his visage whenever they thought proper so to do: they have manufactured divers and sundry rueful-countenanced heroes, in whom they have endeavoured to pourtray the features of their Great Prophet.

Yet I do not conceive the Hindoo representations of the Deity, to be more extravagantly ridiculous or one wit inferior to those of the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, or I may add the numerous idols which are worshipped by the modern Europeans, as well as the Asiatics.

The lofty mountains and wooded vallies that immediately surround the caves of Salsette, are most beautifully picturesque and sublimely romantic. Yet are their inhabitants barbarous, savage, vindictive, and cruel, for whatever may

have been the first intent of these remarkable excavations, they are now become the dwellings of vast tribes of monkies, bats, and bees; as well as the gloomy retreat of tigers, leopards, panthers, and other ferocious beasts of prey.

Upon my last visit to these caves, I was witness of a scene the most heart-rending I ever beheld.

By the time that I had made every observation I thought proper upon their curiosities, the shades of evening were lowering upon the charming scene surrounding me. The sun was sinking in magisterial glory behind the blue mountains that faintly rose in the distant landskip and his dying beams obliquely shot athwart the flowry vale at my feet, and tinged all the waving woods below with yellow lustre. Not one breath of air played the wild notes of Æolus amid the luxuriant branches of the trees, or lisped, in tender accents, amongst the bending reeds, or verdent grass. All was silent, save an occasional scream from neighbouring monkies; or the sudden call of some night-bird quitting its diurnal abode to range the nightly regions of gloom and vapour.

As I slowly descended a narrow path that wound down into the valley before me, I sud-

denly heard a dreadful crashing through the thick bushes on my right hand, as if some immense animal was sweeping, like a furious tornadoe, through the wood, and bearing down all before it in its destructive progress.

As I stood in anxious expectation, an immense tiger suddenly bounded over a high bush into the path before me. The increasing twilight only just permitted me to observe that the vindictive animal, bore in its terrible fangs the mangled body of a fine child not yet dead; but was all torn by the most ghastly wounds, and streams of blood marked the progress of the cruel monster.

Presently the whole air was rung and rent by the most piercing and agonizing shrieks that were ever emitted by human being undergoing the severest torment; and in a few seconds, a young woman rushed past me, in a state of perfect phrenzy, calling upon her child in accents of woe that would have affected a heart of stone. Her hair was all deshevelled, her clothes almost torn from her back, and her beautiful face, and fair bosom, all scratched by the briars, and besmeared with blood.

I immediately followed her as fast as I was

able, but could not come up with her before she had sunk down among the rocks, entirely overcome by grief, madness, and fatigue.

Never did I behold so pitiable a sight. The unhappy woman, in heart-rending shrieks, still called upon the name of her lovely babe. Starting from the ground, she made another effort to pursue the fell-monster who had disturbed her peace, perhaps, for ever; but she again fell prone on the earth, and unable again to rise, she rolled in consuming anguish, beat her beauteous bosom, more than lily fair, and tore her lovely tresses, while she uttered the most agonizing exclamations of woe.

I do not recollect that at any period of my life I have felt so inadequate to yield a fellow-creature relief as in that moment; my feelings were racked and torn by the melting spectacle before me, and I would have made almost any sacrifice to ease the maddening force of her grief. But what balm can soothe the anguish that attends the first paroxism of grief, when a fond mother is deprived of an only beloved child? and how much that sorrow is aggravated, when the distracted parent recollects, that it was, perhaps, through her own neglect, she was robbed of

her darling offspring. Time, and the soothing attentions of a much-loved friend, can alone give rest to the afflicted mind, when its faculties have not been entirely overpowered; but I am afraid the unhappy mother, whose story I am relating, would never again feel a repose to her wounded feelings in this world.

It was with great difficulty I conveyed her back to her own cottage, amongst the mountains. She earnestly begged she might be permitted to perish with her babe, and even struggled much to escape from my hold; but I had the good fortune to meet with a girl who resided with her, and who assisted in putting her to bed.

It appeared that the miserable mother had been engaged in tying up small bundles of faggots in the neighbourhood of her little cottage, and had deposited her infant upon the grass, at a small distance from her, until her business should be performed. In the mean while, one of those tremendous and ferocious animals, usually known by the appellation of Royal Bengal Tygers, spied the sweet innocent as it laid fondling on the green, and marked it for his prey. Crouching behind an adjacent brake, he, at one

mighty bound, seized the unresisting victim, and bore it off through the woods, that echoed with the dreadful crashing of the bushes, and the frightful screams of the distracted mother,

But now no more shall the irresistable smiles of early innocence create the throb of parental affection in the bosom of the wretched mother. No more will she lull her lovely babe to peaceful slumbers, by all the fond endearments of rapturous love. No more shall she contemplate its heavenly face, beaming with cherubim innocence and purity, as fondling on her panting bosom, it presses its blooming cheeks, dimpling with unaffected smiles to her heart, and owns its mother. And now no more shall she dream of future happiness for the days of her first-born, whose early bud is for ever destroyed; or gaze upon it with that rapture, alone felt by the parent, who in the language of unutterable affection, whispers in her own heart, "To this being I gave birth, and when the Almighty Father of mankind presented me with thee, thou lovely pledge of unalterable affection, I forgot all the pangs and anguish of my days of travail, and was bowed down to the adoration of Him,

who placed in my bosom the throb of parental affection."

I never was able to learn whether this unhappy woman recovered the severe shock this cruel circumstance occasioned; and it was not in my power to revisit her lonely cot.

After I had made the tour of these islands, I visited the most interesting parts of the Concan, and spent some months in that charming country. There are many salubrious springs, and warm baths in the Concan, which are much resorted to by the natives, as well as by the Europeans. In the vicinity of many of them, the Brahmins have erected magnificent pagodas, formed spacious lakes, and planted their sacred groves, which add great beauty to all the adjacent country. Yet, allowing all these distinguished ornaments their due praise, the Concan and Decan, are very far inferior, in point of fertility, to the luxuriant plains of Guzerat, which we are now traversing.

I also visited Poonah, which, in those days, was of little more consequence than an obscure village; but which, since the Brahmin usurpation, has become the metropolis of the Mahratta empire,

I have frequently visited this place since, and upon each visit, I have perceived wonderful improvement throughout its extent, though the public buildings are yet very insignificant. But, I believe, the Mharattas were never much famed for elegance of taste, or yet for the cultivation of the fine arts; and when we consider their general character, and their declining state, it is scarcely probable that they will ever arrive at any distinguished eminence in arts or science. It was upon my third visit to Poonah, when the beloved Mhadarow, a most promising young Peshwa, died, and left the sovereignty of his kingdom to his weak, and despicable brother, Narran-Row.

And at that memorable period, I saw their uncle, the unfortunate Ragobah, released from his imprisonment, at the dying request of Mhadarow; but he was, alas, too soon re-conducted to the same miserable abode, by the young sovereign. Though, perhaps, I ought not to lament this treachery and ingratitude of Narran-Row, as it led to the loss of his kingdom and life; for the English espousing the cause of Ragobah, produced such important revolutions at the Mharatta court, that finally put them in

possession of those valuable and fertile provinces, and they have ever since remained in the possession of the British.

I deem that same visit to Poonah, one of the most fortunate events of my life, for I had there an opportunity of witnessing one of those dreadful customs, so celebrated, and so frequent, among the Hindoos. I mean the ceremony of a widow burning herself upon the funeral pile of her deceased lord.

The beautiful and all-accomplished princess, and widow of the departed Mhadarow, was firmly resolved upon this melancholy and shocking sacrifice. Not all the prayers, the intreaties, and tears of her dearest friends, and most beloved relations were of any avail, in disuading the devoted fair one, from the gratification of so exemplary a mark of love and veneration for him who had possessed all her heart, and all her worth.

I have, since during my travels, seen many of these affecting ceremonies, but I was never witness to any so solemn as the sacrifice of this exquisitely beautiful, and young widow, of one of the most powerful sovereigns in the world.

Notwithstanding the various reasons that are

alleged, in support of this extraordinary custom, it is certain that the Hindoo ladies of high rank, submit to it, and even ardently engage in it, from what they conceive to be a nice sense of honour, and convincing proof of conjugal affection.

They are, moreover, taught by the devout Brahmins, to believe, that they shall immediately be united to their departed husbands, in the mansions of eternal joy and rest, there to dwell in everlasting bliss.

While the amiable Mhadarow was yet languishing upon the bed of sickness, he foresaw the danger of his lovely consort sacrificing herself upon his funeral shrine; and in order, as much as possible, to prevent her from taking so fatal a resolution, he not only conjured her, in the most pathetic manner, to prolong a life that would be of such value to his people; but, in order to induce her to live, and to dispense happiness to her fellow-creatures, he bequeathed to her an immense fortune, consisting in money and jewels, and also gave her the supreme command of a very rich and populous tract of country.

But all these riches and accumulation of arbitrary power, but ill compensated the lovely widow for the heavy and irretrievable loss she sus-

tained in the death of her amiable and much loved husband. To those whose feelings have been tenderly fostered and finely attuned, and who have experienced the strength of those ties that bind an attachment founded upon true affection, all outward considerations or attractions do not even for one moment draw the attention of the soul when fixed upon the distruction of its dearest objects. When the heart is torn asunder by the loss of some tenderly beloved object, who has perhaps constituted all the earthly happiness of that being. No cool reasoning, nor trifling charm, or consideration can avert the impervious gloom of melancholy that shrouds every remaining view of life. Those are the moments, perhaps, of all others, when the desponding mind can be most benefited by the salient balm and comforts of true religion.

But even here the influence operates very differently upon different minds. The eternal Truths of Christianity teach the humble followers of Jesus, to submit to the wise dispensation of their Almighty God, without regret, and to bear up against their temporary sorrow in cheerful obedience to His will. But the more ignorant Hindoos are taught by their religious instructors

immediately and voluntarily to follow the spirit of the deceased mortal to the mansions of eternal rest under the idea that it is not only pleasing to the great Allah, but also that they shall be instantly re-united to part no more.

When we consider that this belief is so carefully instilled into their minds while very young, and that the conduct of thousands, as well as every religious form and ceremony, that can enforce it, is perpetually occurring to their view and consideration, during their growth to maturity, and moreover that they are never taught one religious tenet that can at all contribute towards rendering their mental vision more clear; we shall not be so much surprised at these dreadful sacrifices.

No considerations now contributed to support the drooping spirits of the beauteous princess, but the firm resolution she had taken to quit her lovely tenement of clay, in order to fly on the wings of immortality to the presence of her dear departed lord.

She divided her vast wealth amongst her numerous and afflicted relations, and distributed her costly ornaments amongst her female friends; and while her fair countenance evinced more

than bridal joy, followed her husband's corpse in melancholy procession to the funeral pile.

I followed the sad assembly to an open plain at no great distance from Poonah, where upon the verdant margin of a beautiful river, was erected a lofty pile of sandal and other sweet smelling woods, which had been previously impregnated with odoriferous oils, not only that the bodies might be more rapidly consumed, but also in order to render the ascending columns of smoke a spicy fragrance.

Here I saw all those ceremonies and incantations which are usually performed upon these melancholy occasions; and after they were concluded I beheld the devoted fair one, with the most undaunted resolution, ascend the fatal pile, and with an unchanged but smiling countenance lie down by the side of the deceased, place his head upon her bosom, and then with her own hand apply the fire to the spicy arbor and sandal pile.

The dun smoke ascended, and the dreadful flames soon envelloped the pathetic scene before me and consumed the mortal part of the fair devotee, while her emancipated spirit winged its happy way to the arms of her beloved consort in the regions of eternal bliss.

Thus in the prime of a propitious life, and bloom of uncommon beauty, in the full possession of health, riches, splendour, and power, and of all the world in general holds in the highest estimation, did this young Princess voluntarily dare the dread unknown of futurity and purchase immortality.

A melancholy period of eight months had scarcely elapsed after this dreadful sacrifice when Narron-Row the new sovereign was murdered in his own palace.

As the English have so openly espoused the cause of Ragobah, the uncle of this unfortunate monarch; it cannot be pleasing to your feelings, to be told, that he was generally supposed to be the assassin himself, or at least to be the cause of this death.

The dun pall of obscurity is at present drawn over that iniquitous transaction, and the veil of uncertainty shrouds the particulars of that fatal event.

"Ambition! powerful source of good and ill!
"Thy strength in man, like length of wing in birds,
"When disengaged from earth, with greater ease,
"And swifter flight, transports us to the skies;
"By toys entangled, or in guilt bemir'd,
"It turns a curse; it is our chain and scourge,

"In this dark dungeon, where confined we lie,
"Close grated by the sordid bars of sense;
"All prospect of eternity shut out;
"And, but for execution, ne'er set free."

Perhaps it may yet be too early to form an impartial judgment of that precipitate affair, yet well known facts speak loudly for themselves; and it is certain that when the assassin rushed into the apartment where the ill-fated monarch was reclining upon his sopha, in fond dalliance with one of his fair concubines, he instantly fled through a private door into the adjoining chamber, where his uncle Ragobah was kept a close prisoner, and throwing himself at his feet sought his protection in an agony of despair; but he found no mercy from his determined uncle. The murderers rushed tumultuously into the apartment, seized the unhappy victim, and in the presence of Ragobah plunged their daggers into his heart.

After I had viewed all that was worthy of observation in Poonah, Proondah, and many other of the Mharatta forts, situated on the Galtes, I proceeded to Aurungabad, Hyderabad, and several other principal towns inland.

But being ardently desirous of seeing some of

the European settlements on the sea coast, I turned my face to the west, and travelled through the low country till I arrived at the city of Goa.

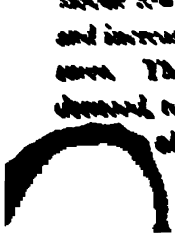
This distinguished city is the capital of ll the Portuguese settlements in India, and was at that time in its meridian splendour and utmost prosperity, but is now considerably diminished in consequence and opulence.

I visited its magnificent churches, and other splendid public buildings. I will assure you I was here very much surprised and astonished by the silly pomp, and empty parade of the Romish worship; and unless I had been witness to many of their ridiculous ceremonies I could not have believed, that any people, calling themselves men and christians, and particularly as possessing those religious tenets of which I have heard so much said, could possibly have been guilty of such gross absurdities and nonsensical puppit-show work as I beheld in the Portuguese city of Goa.

But I was the most astonished at those dreadful, and unnatural, places of confinement, for both sexes, denominated Monastries, or Nunneries; where so many hundreds of my fellow-creatures, were immersed in the gloom of barbarous solitude, for the whole period of their

narrow means, and effectually prevented from accommodating to the comforts and general good of mankind. I am wholly at a loss to account for such a strange, unnatural, and cruel custom; or to what dark and barbarous age of the world it obtained its origin, for it is so directly opposite to the declared ends of existence, and even to the will and positive command of that Great God, whom those mistaken beings profess to follow and obey, that I am amazed and bewildered in a labyrinth of vague conjecture, when I think upon that subject.

Every created being, in possession of animal life, and gifted with a certain portion of mental endowments, or faculties, were placed by their Great Creator, in this beautiful world, to adorn it, not merely by their outward conformation, and to appear like so many living statues, but to render the garden of this world, a perfect paradise, by their actions, and by a cultivation of those talents with which they are endowed, to labour towards the perfectability of their nature, and increase the happiness of their fellow-creatures. This excellent belief, I have always understood, to be particularly inculcated, and pur-



all those calling themselves christians,

more than any other of the various tribes of religionists throughout the whole world. But I must now either believe that those ignorant wretches termed Roman Catholics, that are confined in the city of Goa, are a distinct class of beings, which have been cast off by their brethren, and have taken refuge there, or that I have long laboured under a mistake with respect to the religious tenets of christians. At all events, I must confess, that my opinion of christianity, is very much lowered, since I have witnessed so many palpable absurdities in the ceremonies of their church.

There is yet a circumstance, which, for the honour of human Nature, I would fain never have been acquainted with; I mean that actual earthly-hell, the Inquisition.

'Till I knew of the infernal deeds, and almost inconceivable cruelties, that were perpetrated by those devils incarnate, who entitle themselves ministers of Almighty vengeance in the walls of that place of torment; I was always led to believe, that the meek and lowly followers of Jesus, abhorred all cruelty and persecution. But now, for the first time, I beheld their zealous priests, far exceeding the first dis-

ciples of our Prophet, in the early ages of Mahometanism, in every species of cruelty, tyrannical oppression, and blood-thirsty persecution.

Poor infatuated mortals, whether you are the worshippers of my God, or of the christian God, I will pray to the Great Allah, to remove the film of ignorance and superstition from your eyes, and to shew you that mercy you deny to others, when he shall call you to that dreadful day of reckoning, wherein all your abhorred crimes shall appear to sink you to the eternal shades of perdition. Yes, I will pray for you, who have forgotten, or never knew, that mercy, love, and melting charity, which are the first and most heavenly characteristics of all the various tribes of religionists, and which proceed immediately from the Eternal Fountain of goodness.

Amongst many other places of consequence, situated upon the coast, I staid a few days at Onore, where the English have a factory, which had been deserted for a considerable period, but had then been lately established.

The Rajah, who had been at great pains with the government of Bombay, to accomplish this desirable event, was then acknowledging the

favour he had received, by sending valuable presents to the governors, consisting of all that was most rare and curious in his dominions.

Amongst the living animals he had sent, were two, that deservedly attracted much curious investigation. They were male and female, of an hitherto non-descript species of animals which had been taken in the woods near Donore. The male measured about sixteen inches in height, and the female about fourteen. They bore an exact resemblance to the human species; their skins were equally white, and smooth; the hair upon their heads was long and glossy, their hands and feet were exactly formed like the human species, and not resembling those of the monkey-tribe; their walk was perfectly erect, and, in all outward appearances they closely assimilated with the conformation and characteristics of mankind, and appeared to be his species in miniature.

These remarkable animals were intrusted to the care of an English Captain, bound to Bombay, and were placed under his protection, with many strong injunctions to take particular care of them; but, they had not been long at sea, when both became victims to the sea sickness, and the Captain, who, like a true sailor, was to-

tally unaware of any value being attached to a dead carcass, immediately consigned them to the great deep, where these remarkable animals, would in all probability furnish some famished fish with an excellent meal, instead of being preserved for the philosophical investigation of the curious, which might easily have been accomplished by placing them in spirits. From this place I travelled through immense forests of sandal wood, and vast tracts of pepper plantations to Mangalore, Cannanore, Tellicherry, and Callicut.

The Zamorine, although then in a declining state, was deemed a prince of great influence; and the sovereigns of the Mysore, and Bednure, were not less rich than powerful. The fantastic shadow of royalty, even now, hovers round the throne of the former; but the renowned Hyder Ally, has totally overwhelmed and annihilated the latter, and sunk his power and his name into that oblivious lake, where crowns and coronets must finally be consumed, and has annexed his rich domains to the others of his amazing conquests.

You will scarcely be able to form an idea of the vast wealth found by this hero, in the captured palaces of this unfortunate prince.

The plunder he obtained from Nadir Shah alone, exceeded it. The bedsteads, the sophas, and all the principal pieces of furniture were of solid gold, inlaid and adorned by the most valuable jewels and precious stones; while all the treasuries, and many subterraneous caverns were filled with the gold and silver of accumulated ages.

Although this famous usurper has had scarcely any education, and derives his birth from a very low and obscure origin, yet he is possessed of the greatest natural abilities, and is endowed with the true spirit of enterprize, which his rapid career of success, and what some would term glory, fully evinces. I have frequently seen him, and have had many opportunities of obtaining a knowledge of his character.

He is brave to an excess; but, contrary to the true character of an exalted hero, he is frequently guilty of wanton cruelty, and more particularly when he is in a state of intoxication; and he is very often found in a state of inebriation. In those phrensied moments he is likewise grossly abusive, and extremely illiberal. He is universally feared by his subjects; not one of whom loves him. Notwithstanding he

can neither write nor read, his numerous secretaries dare not, upon any consideration, deceive him; and, indeed, if any of them were so inclined, they would find it almost impossible to elude his vigilant caution; and they are well aware that a sword is always suspended, even by a hair, over their heads, so often as they enter his palace.

So watchful is he over his fate, that no person can obtain the smallest intelligence of his motions, by applying to any, even the most lowly of his subjects. No man who speaks of him to strangers considers himself safe. A total silence upon all political matters prevails throughout his dominions. He has the earliest and best notice of every transaction, even of the most minute which occurs; and has Halcarras at every court and town of any consequence in India; and also maintains secret spies to hover about the tents of all travellers who may be passing through his realms, in order to pry into their manœuvres, and learn the object of their journey.

The eldest son of this renowned usurper, Hyder Ally, is named Tippoo Saheb, and is to succeed him, in all his mighty possessions. His second son, the Sultan Currim, also shares much

of his confidence, and is equally with his elder brother, a brave and experienced general.

I am very much concerned at the present war, between the English and this powerful Nabob; for I am much afraid, that if it is not speedily terminated, it will be attended with the most fatal consequences to your possessions in India. The Carnatic, which was, but a very short time ago, a source of vast wealth, and was the parent and nurse of industry, is now entirely ruined; and even the dominions of Hyder are laid waste, and depopulated.—War, that infernal scourge of mankind, now rages throughout the world. The eastern and western hemispheres, the old and the new world, are torn and rent by her dread alarums, and almost every nation presents a scene of blood and devastation.

How ardently do I long, but dare not hope, for that glorious period, when the implements of destruction shall be driven into ploughshares, and turned into pruning hooks; and once more to behold, ere I lay my weary limbs at rest, the boundless ocean enlivened and whitened o'er by the proud sails of commerce, instead of displaying the guly ensigns of death, which now wave their destructive banners throughout the

seas. I view these portentous convulsions of the world in a very different light from that in which a proud usurper, or aspiring prince, beholds them. These, by hurling the thunderbolts of war, rolling the clouds of destruction, and crying ruin and devastation o'er all the land, hope to build upon the annihilation of innocent thousands, the superstructure of earthly grandeur and permanent power.

But I, who have calmly considered the precarious tenure on which man can properly build, during this, his state of probation, and been convinced how flimsy the thread of his existence is here below, cannot but lament that misconception of the true ends of life these infatuated mortals have formed. Had they ever tasted of that heaven which perpetually exists in the virtuous and intellectual mind, they would no longer act in direct opposition to the dictates of their consciences, the will and command of their great Creator, and to the only means of obtaining present and eternal happiness.

As to myself, I am a citizen of no particular petty spot of earth, I consider the whole world as my garden and mine inheritance, and regard all mankind as my brethren; and before I

finish this, my mortal career, I ardently wish to behold every man eating the fruit of his own vine, and dwelling in peace under the shade of his own fig-tree.

At this period of the narrative Abdallah remained silent, for now the sable curtain of night was drawn over the reposing landskip, and the unwholesome vapours of darkness, reminded us of pitching our tents, and preparing for repose.

"Night, sable goddess! from her ebon throne,
"In rayless majesty, now stretches forth
"Her leaden sceptre o'er a slumb'ring world.
"Silence, how dead! and darkness, how profound
"Nor eye, nor list'ning ear, an object finds;
"Creation sleeps. 'Tis as the general pulse
"Of life stood still, and nature made a pause,
"An awful pause! prophetic of her end.
"And let her prophecy be soon fulfill'd:
"Fate! drop the curtain; I can lose no more."

ESSAY ON FEAR.

"That life is better life, past fearing death,
"Than that which lives to fear."

As I have very frequently had occasion to lament that great susceptibility of fear, which incessantly tortures the minds of those, who have very early in life been enervated by the quick apprehensions of imaginary danger, and which they have never afterwards been able to shake off or overcome, I intend to devote a few of my pages to a consideration and illustration of this important subject, endeavouring as much as is in my power, to render the parents and guardians of children particularly cautious to prevent the young mind from imbibing any of such destructive prejudices during their infantine education.

The consideration of this subject, is of the greatest importance to every individual, as the

most dreadful consequences have resulted to mankind by the effects of fear. Death, madness, and deprivation of some of the most valuable of the mental faculties, have frequently accrued to unfortunate individuals, by the operation of this strange infatuation upon their minds; and, even where the effects have not been so powerful, the mind has materially suffered by the shock, and those who labour under this disease, are always liable to have their peace destroyed by the most trifling circumstances.

I shall begin by observing, that as fear is not an innate quality, or passion of the mind, it is, like all other knowledge or ideas, acquired; and being merely an apprehension of danger, is not felt by those minds who have been unacquainted with danger.

In order to shew this more fully, we have only to observe the conduct of very young animals, when placed in a situation of actual danger, but one in which they had never before been involved. For instance, we have observed young chickens running about, and feeding immediately under the power of some bird of prey, wholly unconscious of fear; but although they are so ignorant of the danger of their

situation, the parent hen is not; for she immediately evinces her great anxiety, earnestly calls them around her, and protects them under her hovering wings. The negligence of the young birds arises from their ignorance; they have never suffered from the power of their enemy; and, consequently, do not regard the hawk as an enemy until they have witnessed its fatal power; while, on the contrary, the conduct of the old bird is the result of experience: she dreads the appearance of the bird of prey, because she has seen similar enemies commit the most cruel devastation. The numerous instances of young children playing with savage animals, or about the heels of horses, with an idea of perfect security, fully evinces this position; but were it necessary to convince my readers that fear is acquired, and that it is merely a susceptibility, or knowledge of real danger, it would not be difficult to produce a volume of examples; but, I believe, it will readily be granted by every one.

Fear is usually acquired during childhood, because the mind is then more susceptible of every kind of impression, and readily receives and cherishes every idea that is offered to it by

the operation of outward circumstances, or by the operation of those who undertake its education. And that knowledge, of all others, is the most readily received, which is calculated to protect the person from danger. But, although it is absolutely necessary to be apprehensive of real danger, in order, for our well being, it does not follow that we are to know what a fear of imaginary danger is; such a sensation ought never to enter the mind, nor would it if properly educated.

We should never be taught to apprehend dangers that from the nature of circumstances, cannot possibly exist; and, this is that apprehension of danger, which I understand by the word Fear, and which certainly torments nine-tenths of mankind, and which ought to be done away.

"Thou, to whom the world unknown
"With all its shadowy shapes is shewn:
"Who seest appall'd th' unreal scene,
"While Fancy lifts the veil between:
"Ah, Fear! ah, frantic Fear!
"I see, I see thee near.
"I know thy hurried step, thy haggard eye!
"Like thee I start, like thee disorder'd fly,
"For, lo, what monsters in thy train appear!

"Danger, whose limbs of giant mould,
"What mortal eye can fix'd behold?
"Who stalks his round, an hideous form,
"Howling amidst the midnight storm,
"Or throws him on the ridgy steep
"Of some loose hanging rock to sleep:
"And with him thousand phantoms join'd,
"Who prompt to deeds accurs'd the mind:
"And those, the fiends, who near allied,
"O'er nature's wounds and wrecks preside:
"While Vengeance, in the lurid air,
"Lifts her red arm, expos'd and bare;
"On whom that ravening brood of fate,
"Who lap the blood of sorrow, wait;
"Who, Fear, this ghastly train can see,
"And look not madly wild, like thee?
* * * * * * *
"Thou who such weary lengths hast past,
"Where wilt thou rest, mad nymph, at last?
"Say, wilt thou shroud in haunted cell,
"Where gloomy Rape and Murder dwell?
"Or in some hallow'd seat,
"'Gainst which the big waves beat,
"Hear drowning seamen's cries in tempests brought?
"Dark power, with shuddering meek submitted thought,
"Be mine, to read the visions old,
"Which thy awakening bards have told;
"And lest thou meet my blasted view,
"Hold each strange tale devoutly true;
"Ne'er be I found, by thee o'er-aw'd,
"In that thrice-hallow'd eve abroad,
"When ghosts, as cottage-maids believe,
"Their pebbled beds permitted leave,

"And goblins haunt from fire, or fen,
"Or mine, or flood, the walks of men!

And as it is evident this impression, (so unworthy of mankind) is received during the critical period of early infancy, I will endeavour to render the guardians of childhood more watchful over the unformed minds of those under their care, and particularly careful to prevent such an injurious sensation from being instilled into them, by giving some striking instances of its dreadful effects upon the mind. I am fully of opinion that this terrible prejudice is caused in the minds of by far the greater part of mankind, by the diabolical schemes and iniquitous stories, which have been fabricated by those wretches who have had the management of their childhood, for the express purpose of producing fear and terror, at that susceptible period of life when the tenderness of youth receives every impression that is offered to it; and being, as yet, unacquainted with the villainy of mankind, places implicit confidence and reliance upon all that is said.

Hence it too frequently arises that ignorant nursery-maids, or others employed in the ser-

vice of children, infuse a deadly and contagious poison into the minds of many a promising child; which, when farther advanced in life, shall require the greatest exertions of the intellect to subdue. But very few, even amongst the most distinguished for mental power, have been able, entirely, to overcome this despicable weakness during the whole of their lives; and myriads of human beings bear this foible with them to their graves, after having frequently suffered in a most material manner by the effects of a species of folly they ought never to have been acquainted with.

Conceiving, as I do, that the most effectual way to instigate parents towards the removal of the cause, is to shew them the effects, I shall, from time to time, present my readers with an essay upon this subject; each containing a striking illustration of the fact; and I shall begin the series by the relation of a circumstance in which I was myself a very principal actor.

Many years ago, I accidentally met a party of my most intimate friends at a coffee-house, in a famed city of the North of England; and during a miscellaneous conversation, the subject of fear came under the cognizance of our party,

and was honoured by a very ample discussion.

It will readily be believed that our opinions varied considerably; not as to the general impulse of fear itself, but as to the real grounds of fear. Some warmly contended for the positive existence of ghosts, witches, hobgoblins, and all such worthy personages; but a few, and amongst that few was myself, ventured in the plenitude of our fool-hardiness, to deny their power, or indeed reality, and *perhaps impiously* assevered that the existence and appearance of all such superstitious creations of the brain were merely in idea, and that it was not only inconsistent with man's reason, but could not (according to our view), answer any good purpose. Such a positive and daring assertion, aroused the more fiery tempers of some present, and one amongst the number, addressing himself to me, told me, with some degree of irony, that although I had said so much against the existence of ghosts, he was confident I dare not pass a night amongst the cloisters and tombs of the cathedral church of that city; and in order to shew the truth of this courageous remark, he ventured to bet a considerable wager upon the

strength of my supposed fear. As I then wished for no greater amusement than to punish this worthy gentleman, (who, by the bye, is as superstitious an old fool as any in existence), and in a way I knew he the least relished, which was an affection of his purse. I immediately accepted the proffered wager, by which I agreed to pass the following night alone, in the gloomy and damp vaults of that beautiful Gothic edifice; and as I had no fears on the score of ghosts, I did not solicit a companion; although company would, doubtless, have much contributed to the comfortableness of my lonely situation, yet I did not choose to prefer any such request, lest it might be interpreted, by my antagonist, into that fear I so much despised.

But, fortunately for me, a suspicion entered his mind, that I should, by some means or other, escape the performance of what he conceived to be such a disagreeable task; and, in order to compel me to abide by the wager, he ventured to offer me a companion. This was, precisely, what I so much wished for; but I knew that a refusal of his offer would ferment his suspicion of my supposed wish to

escape, and make him the more urgent to allow me a partner in the adventure. I accordingly pretended that I did not wish for any overlooker of my proceedings, and was not, in the smallest degree, desirous for a participator in such a glorious undertaking. This declaration, as I expected, increased his importunity, and I, at length, with great apparent unwillingness, accepted that benefit for which I had so much wished.

Having requested a very particular friend of mine to accompany me in this strange adventure, and having provided a number of little necessaries, such as tinder-box, candles, some useful provender, brandy, &c. &c. with a few books, and a couple of blankets to protect our adventurous persons from the chilling damps of that edifice, we, on the following evening, bent our steps towards the scene of our *sacrilegious* actions.

It was at the usual hour when the gates are closed for the night, that we arrived at the chief portal of this stupendous and ancient edifice; and, as we approached its sculptured walls, those beautiful lines of Congreve forcibly struck my recollection, where he says——

"———'Tis dreadful!
" How rev'rend is the face of this tall pile,
" Whose ancient pillars rear their marble heads
" To bear aloft its arch'd and pond'rous roof!
" By its own weight made stedfast and immoveable.
" Looking tranquillity, it strikes an awe
" And terror to my aching sight! The tombs,
" And monumental caves of death look cold,
" And shoot a chillness to my trembling heart."

They assimilated with my own thoughts at that moment, and I felt and owned their truth. It was mid-twilight when we stepped over the vestibule into the church, and we had scarcely secreted ourselves behind one of the massy columns, that support the main body of the building, in order to elude the search of the door-keeper, when that menial officer shut to the doors, with a thundering clap, that rolled in solemn, but dying echoes, through all the aisles and avenues of the building, turned the massy bolt, and quitted his post for the night.

We heard his departing footsteps, and found ourselves alone, in the body of a building, so vast, and awfully profound, that our vision in vain endeavoured to search its extremities,

through the thick gloom of the departing evening. Many minutes were elapsed in an expressive silence, which neither of us felt inclined to break; but at length, rousing myself from the superstitious lethargy, into which I found myself gradually sinking, I proposed to my companion, that we should deposit our provisions in some appropriate spot, and forthwith explore the beautiful architecture of the venerable pile.

We accordingly placed our cargo, most devoutly, in the large font, and covered it over; we then wandered on, in silence, towards that part of the church where the monuments are erected.

The marbled honours of the dead were arranged on either side of the upper end of the middle, and principal aisle; and, had I been subject to the impressions of supernatural fear, this lonely, solemn spot, arrayed in funeral pomp, and mostly concealed in the deepning gloom of evening, would certainly have prepared my mind for any superstitious affection, however absurd.

Even in that state of *sacrilegious hardihood*, to which I had worked up my mind, I could

scarcely resist a secret, silent impression of awe, that stole, almost imperceptibly, over my faculties, and seemed to cover them as with a veil of mysterious delusion, that continued to increase, until I felt uneasy under the weight of a nameless something, that I wished to be removed from my mind. I felt depressed, and I knew not why. I gazed in a kind of fixed stare upon the white statutes and monuments that faintly glared through the dim perspective, until my vision became partly disordered, and I imagined the figures I beheld to glide about through the gloom. To such a degree was my mind worked up, that I involuntarily started back. My kind companion, partaking of the infection, caught my arm, and trembling, endeavoured, but in vain, to speak. This sudden seizure of my arm, at once aroused my almost-bewildered senses from the delirium into which they had been gradually hastening, and recovering myself, I ventured to laugh at my own weakness, and propose to my companion, that we should await the rising of the moon before we proceeded any further, and in the mean while strike a light, and fix our candles in various parts

of the main body of the cathedral, in order that a general, but faint light, might be thrown upon the extensive walls.

My friend approving of this proposal, we retired to our temporary store room, the font, and striking a light, produced our tapers, and placing them singly at stated distances from each other, against the lofty and massy columns that support this immense gothic structure, a faint light gleamed partially upon the walls and rose in wan flames, through the damp air that pervaded the long and gloomy aisles through which we now wandered, already chilled by the deadly coldness of the place.

Wrapped up in our cloaks, we paced the whole length of the building, backwards and forwards, waiting with the utmost anxiety for the appearance of the moon to dispel the deeper shades of night, and render our situation more interesting. The pale glare of light produced by our tapers was so faint, that not one half of the beautiful perspective of the edifice was distinguishable, yet the fine gothic arches appeared to sink behind each other, more and more imperceptible 'till at length they retired into the obscure mist that shrouded the remote distance from our view, and

which also veiled the lofty summit of the arches and the sculptured roof of the building, in the same dun pall of obscurity.

My companion, who was a most excellent musician, consented to tune the fine organ that stands in the centre of the church, whilst I wandered through the aisles, listening to the melody of his music.

He ascended to the instrument, and I proceeded to the furthermost extremity of the middle aisle, and there I took my station under a gothic archway that terminated the *long* avenue, and commanded a view of the whole perspective, but partially illumined by the small glimmering tapers suspended from the fluted columns, and the antique organ dimly reared its towering height over the bluish mist that concealed the yet more remote distance from my view.

Here wrapt in my cloak, with my eyes bent towards the choir, I attentively listened for those sounds which I knew would emancipate my soul from all earthly considerations. At length a gentle swell of solemn music whispered through the aisle and trembled on the air; it deepened, and the full melody of the peal fill'd the vast edifice with more than mortal sounds. By turns the rich

swell humbled my soul before the great Creator, or suddenly rising into the loftiest strains of heavenly harmony, bore my imagination far away from the knowledge of my situation, or an abode with earthly objects.

How long my faculties had been charmed and fascinated beyond the power of recollection, by this exquisite music, I know not, but I was suddenly roused from my reverie by a loud shriek that echoed along the walls, and died away in long whispers through the vaults. I started, and staring around endeavoured to shake off the effects of the delightful dream in which I had evidently been too long indulged.

The moon was now considerably elevated in the heavens, and cast the beautiful tints and numerous figures exhibited on the painted windows across the marbled pavement. The lights were expiring in their sockets, and all was silent as death, save a light breeze that whistled through the crevices of the windows, and sighed along the vaults below my feet. I strove to recollect the voice I had heard, and assure myself whether it was the effect of a disordered imagination or really that of my friend; but I was obliged to remain in a state of painful uncertainty, until a most ter-

rible scream pierced my ear and rung through the whole edifice.

I could now no longer doubt that my companion had either fallen a victim to his imaginary fears, or was really suffering under some disagreeable dilemma. I accordingly followed the direction of the sounds, and soon arrived at that part of the building set apart for the tombs and monuments. The beams of the moon now fell directly upon the marble figures arranged to my right and left, some indeed remained in shade, and formed a gloomy picture that had a strong effect upon my mind. I appeared as if wandering amongst the affrighted dead, who seemed to have started from their yawning graves in order to arrest my progress, and demand my right for disturbing the silence of their dismal mansions by my echoing footsteps.

I had proceeded a considerable distance through these tombs, when I beheld the body of my friend stretched at length across the entrance of a low vault, at the mouth of which stood a marble monument, decorated by two figures after the life that seemed to point at the gloom beneath.

Not less surprised than afflicted to behold the companion of my adventure in such a pitiable

situation, I raised him from the damp ground upon which he had been extended at his length with his face downwards, and rested him against a pillar; but finding him utterly bereft of all sensation, cold, and motionless, I carried him into the body of the church, and there, after great difficulty I recovered him so far as to enable him to swallow a considerable potion of brandy, which contributed to recruit his exhausted frame; but it was not before much time had elapsed and after many earnest entreaties, that he either could or would acquaint me with the cause of his terrible fright.

At length, amidst a state of general trepidation, and in a very subdued voice, he informed me that when he had played sufficiently upon the organ, he ventured down amongst the monuments in order to examine them by the assistance of the moon beams, which then shone very bright through the great east window, and that when he had reached the spot where I found him he was attracted by the splendid appearance, and solemn effect of the monument before mentioned, and that he was regarding it with great attention, when to his infinite terror and astonishment one of the figures moved. He started back in horror and would have fled,

had not the desire of being certain of the fact propelled him once more to turn towards it. He had done so, when the same figure darted towards him, and he imagined seized him, but a total deprivation of his faculties at that dreadful crisis prevented him from any other sensation or knowledge of his situation.

I could scarcely refrain from smiling at this relation which appeared to me so like the effects of an over-strained imagination, but I was in reality much concerned for the pitiable condition in which my friend was placed; and whatever had been the cause of so great a shock to his feelings, I could not but sincerely lament the result, which appeared to be an injury sustained by his nervous system, which he would not readily, if ever, entirely shake off.

Perceiving that I did not give him sufficient credit for the truth of his narration, he seemed much displeased, and said, that if I would venture to go and examine the monument, he would endeavour to accompany me.

I readily agreed to investigate the affair a little further, because I hoped by that means to dissipate the fears of my companion. Accordingly, having replenished our drooping spirits by a full

dose of brandy, we proceeded towards the fatal spot, linked together arm in arm, and in a very few minutes approached the monument. As we drew near I found my companion begin to hang back, and shake most tumultuously, at the same time pointing towards the figures in silence. I confess, this pantomime, together with the scenery, did not contribute much towards any increase of fortitude on my part, and I began to feel somewhat uneasy.

At length we stood before the tomb and figures, observing a profound silence. Suddenly my friend started, and ejaculated a half-stifled "there"! Although I had seen nothing, I felt strangely affected by rising dread, and I scarcely dared to gaze steadily upon the figures, but another violent commotion in the structure of my companion, together with a quick jerk of my arm, caused me to eye the monument askance, when, beyond any delusion, I beheld a figure move in the shade, and in a moment I felt all my resolution depart from me, with much more rapidity than I had formed it.

Unable to fly or move from the spot, I now continued to gaze involuntarily upon the cause of our mutual terror, when the figure again moved, raised its right hand, and leaned forwards over the pedestal, as if striving to reach us. This exhibi-

tion was too much for my friend, who once more fell flat upon his face, overwhelmed with excess of perturbation; nor was my situation much more enviable, for, in a recoiled attitude of affright, I stood nearly in a state of complete insensibility, which instantaneously changed to phrensy, when I beheld the same figure leap at us from the monument, uttering an infernal laugh, unlike any human sound I had ever heard, that rung in re-echoed peals through all the vaults that lie beneath the building.

Finding myself in the firm gripe of some powerful being, and driven almost to madness, I also grappled in my turn, when the figure stared me full in the face, and again burst out into a peal of horrid laughter, at the same time crying out, in a wild voice, "Why you won't hurt poor crazy Fanny, will you?"—In an instant my terror gave way to surprise; and after the first effects of the rencontre were over, I recollected the poor creature in my grasp to be an insane girl, that I had frequently seen in the public streets, subsisting upon the charity of the citizens. I immediately quitted my hold, and begged she would inform me how she came there, and what

was her object in view, when she took up her abode in such a strange situation.

From her wild and incoherent sentences, I at length understood that she had been walking in the cathedral, during the afternoon of the preceding day; and having loitered in an obscure part of the building, had been locked in by the door-keeper through mistake; and that having seen my friend walking about among the monuments, had taken that situation in order to terrify him, which unfortunately had had that effect, to such a degree, that he will certainly feel the effects of it so long as he shall exist; and by this trifling cause, I had myself been strangely disordered.

The poor maniac seemed much pleased that she had met with companions, and appeared very willing to assist in the second conveyance of my entranced companion to the body of the church; and during my endeavours to recal his scattered faculties, this melancholy object danced round us, sometimes singing, and sometimes uttering the most piteous exclamations of woe.

After a considerable time elapsed, in endeavours to revive my friend, he uttered a deep

groan, that announced returning sensation, and soon after he opened his eyes; but in rolling them about, he suddenly perceived the maniac, and instantly relapsed into his former state of insensibility. I now thought proper to convey the poor girl to some distance, until I should have recovered my friend and explained the cause of his fright.—It was not without great difficulty I could make the poor maniac understand what I wished her to do, and it was not till after much intreaty, and many promises, I prevailed upon her to remain alone, in a pew of the choir, until I should call her; to which place I at length conducted her. As I led this unhappy girl through the gothic archway of that part of the edifice, I felt much impressed by the striking scene before me. The great bell was tolling the hour of midnight from the principal tower, in tones so deep, that they shook the very walls. The moon, which was nearly in her last quarter, shone with more than common lustre through the lofty painted windows, and cast their beautiful tints upon the marbled pavement before us. The statues and figures to the right and left, appeared through the moon light like so many corpes preserved from the encroachments of time,

by a state of enchantment, and reared their pale fronts through the misty distance in solemn majesty. The miserable girl walking before me, through the beautiful perspective (whose fluted arches were now more visible by the clear light of the moon) appeared like the genius of the sacred spot. She was yet young, and had been remarkably beautiful; but the severity of her misfortunes, the keenness of her sorrows, and the deprivation of her mental faculties, had destroyed the early bloom of her beauty, and had placed an expression of uncommon wildness, in the stead of that soft delicacy of exquisite feeling, which had once characterized her interesting countenance in a striking degree. Her long black tresses now flowed down her back, and over her exposed bosom, unadorned and undressed; but its beautiful gloss and natural ringlets were not yet entirely destroyed. The snowy whiteness of her expansive forehead, was, indeed, injured by a perpetual exposure to the inclmencies of the weather; and her large blew eyes no longer languished in captivating lustre, or beamed with female delicacy and softness; but sent forth the untameable fire of madness in irregular flashes, like the irresistable blaze of the forked lightning,

when shooting from the black bosom of contending elements, athwart the troubled expanse of the stormy heavens. Her delicate nose and pouting lips, even yet bore some of the characteristics of femenine beauty; though her wan cheeks and pale complexion evinced the total decay of all other charms. Her form was finely moulded, and was yet graceful; and the miserable rags she bore, could not entirely screen her native elegance from the view, or prevent the compassionate beholder from lamenting the fall of so noble a being.

Such was the interesting figure I led into a small pew within the choir, until I should have recovered my friend.

A full hour elapsed before I had restored his senses, and another passed away before he was in a state to converse. At length I informed him of the real state of the case; but he would not credit any narration, and hinted that I wished to pass over the affair in that manner: but when I assured him I could produce the girl who was the innocent cause of his terror, he begged he might see her; accordingly I called her, and she presently came running towards us.

He did not behold her without evident marks

of perturbation, but was soon reconciled to her appearance; and we agreed to pass the remainder of the night where we then were. Notwithstanding he was now fully convinced of the truth of the strange circumstance, he assured me his feelings had received such a violent shock, and he felt his nerves so dreadfully deranged, that he was afraid he should long experience the effects of that adventure.

Each of us having sunk into a dose, the remainder of the night passed away imperceptibly, and the six o'clock bell for the re-opening of the doors, found us somewhat refreshed, and ready to decamp from our eventful scene of action, so soon as we could gain an opportunity.

We had not waited long in suspense, when the south door of the cathedral was opened, by the assiduous door-keeper, and we instantly made our escape, luckily unperceived by him; and made the best of our way to our own habitations, where, after a few hours sound sleep, and a hearty breakfast, I found myself in a state to laugh at my last night's adventure, and in full glee to ridicule all imaginary fears.

An hour in the afternoon of the same day had been previously fixed upon for the meeting of

the same party, who were present at the making of the wager; and at the time appointed, I proceeded to the place of rendezvous, and there met the company, amongst whom was my poor friend, whom I was extremely sorry to behold, much out of order. He was yet pallid, and his hands shook as though he was afflicted by the palsy.

After the particulars of the night's adventure had been related to the entire satisfaction of the parties concerned, and after many long and tedious discussions upon the subject of fear had once more been had upon the carpet, I left the company for other engagements.

Since the foregoing transaction, I have frequently lamented the occasion that made me the second cause of so great an affliction, as a nervous weakness, with which the young gentleman, who was my companion in that adventure, has been tormented ever since, and will in all probability suffer from it to the end of his life. His nerves were before that circumstance perfectly sound, and he was not conscious of any weakness; but now they are so disordered, that his quiet is incessantly destroyed upon the most trifling occasions.

It may be asked why I felt myself terrified upon the first appearance of the figure, and was for a time so considerably disturbed. To such an interrogation I will readily answer, that I am far from having entirely conquered my foolish fears: so much was my mind afflicted by fear during infancy, that I can remember particular periods of my life, when I was nearly distracted by the imaginary fears that were carefully instilled upon my young mind, by the diabolical arts of my nurses, and the servants of my father. I can trace all of my particular weaknesses upon this account, to those wretches whom I shall never cease to hold in utter detestation, being thoroughly convinced of the irremediable mischief occasioned by them. I have been endeavouring all my life to overcome those fears I had imbibed, perhaps from one single improbable narration, or frightful punishment during my infancy; and I feel that I have not entirely destroyed that lurking venom, although I have in a very great measure vanquished its most poisonous qualities. My temporary fright in the cathedral arose principally from the weakness of my nerves, which were never strong, and upon some occasions they rise up in judgment against me, as in that pre-

dicament, although I must confess I was not without uneasy sensations of a more disgraceful nature; but even these arose from the source I have mentioned.

This is only the first of a series of essays upon this subject, which I sincerely hope, may, in some degree, however small, be instrumental towards the annihilation of foolish fears, in the minds of those who are tormented by them; and also of service in teaching the parents and guardians of children to beware of every intimation that can at all sow the destructive seeds, during their susceptible state of childhood; which may, in after-life, be productive of so many ill-consequences, together with lasting shame and disgrace.

"Cowards die many times before their deaths;
"The valiant never taste of death but once.
"Of all the wonders that I have yet heard,
"It seems to me most strange that man should fear,
"Seeing that death a necessary end,
"Will come, when it will come."

ESSAY SECOND, ON FEAR.

"It is the purpose that makes strong the vow;
"But vows to every purpose should not hold."

PERHAPS many of my readers, may, after a perusal of this Essay, venture to criticise its title, and imagine that "Biographical Sketches of a strange character," would have been more appropriate; but I must adhere to the justice of its present name; because in this paper will be found a notable instance of foolish fear, in the person of a church-officer, which was productive of very lamentable consequences to himself and family.

During my abode in the city mentioned in my last Essay, a circumstance occurred, which attracted no small notice.

In a lofty garret, situated in an obscure street

of the said city, dwelt a man of the name of Pivett, whose life and manners had long been the subject of discussion in a certain circle; nor was he thus dragged from his native obscurity, into the broad light of public cognizance, without some degree of justice, and his foibles brought before the impertinent stare of grim-visaged slander, without some cause for censure.

On what peculiar spot of earth this singular character first appeared from Nature's vast womb, I know not; neither am I acquainted with the condition of the immediate agents of his birth. Report has affirmed that many years of his life were spent, in what is termed, the service of his country, that is, the prime of his days were passed away in the condition of a foot-soldier; and, moreover, some has asserted, on behalf of his honour and glory, that he obtained the signal approbation of his commanders, during the celebrated rebellions of 1715, and 1745, in both of which terrible events he bore an active part.

It is now seven or eight years since I saw him. He was then upwards of ninety years of age; was, by profession a carver and gilder,

and from minute enquiry, the following particulars may be relied upon as correct.

When he was about sixty years of age, by an unlucky accident, his house was burnt during the night, by means of some flames catching the cloihes of the very bed in which he was buried in profound slumbers; and so imminent was the danger of his life, that it was with the utmost hazard of breaking his neck, he was under the necessity of descending from his chamber-window, at a considerable height, into the street, as the only remaining means of an escape.

Such an effect had this conflagration upon his mind, together with the loss of his property, that he made a solemn vow, while prostrate upon his knees, before God, that he never more would enter a bed, even should his years be long extended, and the infirmities of age, or sickness should press heavy upon him.

Pivett was of the Romish church, and he kept this ridiculous vow, inviolate, to the latest hour of his being; and, for the last thirty years, at a period of life when most men require every indulgence that can be procured, or bestowed, this strange being passed without

once entering a bed. My readers may have some idea of the mode in which he passed the night, from the relation of the following anecdote.

It was towards the close of Pivett's eventful life, that he was returning, about midnight, from one of those solitary walks in the "dead vast and middle of the night," which he was in the habit of taking, when he accidentally met with a trooper, who, by some unlucky means had been shut out from his quarters.

The night being very far advanced, the poor soldier was under no small trepidation, lest he should be obliged to pass the hours of darkness, without the shelter of an habitation, when in a propitious moment, he had espied Pivett, on his way to his own lodging. The soldier having immediately made up to him, begged to know where he might gain a bed, being very cold from the keen air which blew sharp from the east. Pivett replied, "come along with me, my boy, I'll find you a good wholesome lodging." The trooper, as might be expected, was much delighted, and thanked Pivett, in very warm terms, for his complaisance.

Pivett led the way through a number of

bye and narrow streets, until turning up a passage he stopped, and desired the trooper to follow close behind him, for it was very dark. They, at length arrived in a small court, and Pivett, with some difficulty, hauled a long ladder from one corner, and placing it against one of the walls bade the soldier follow him, which summons was obeyed with the utmost punctuality.

They soon entered a chamber, which the trooper conceived to be a hay-loft, but an impervious darkness pervading the whole place, prevented any of those necessary investigations, which, otherwise, might have been made, to the greater satisfaction of the party concerned.

From the first moment of their entrance the trooper missed Pivett, and therefore supposed he was advanced to some other apartment, until hearing very articulate sounds of vehement snoring, at no great distance from his person, he very naturally concluded that his kind host had got into bed, and had fallen into a sound sleep. He accordingly conceived it to be his duty to search for his bed, more especially as he had received a warm invitation to that effect,

and instantly began a general grope for that inestimable article of furniture.

He had not proceeded very far in his feeling search, before he had the dire misfortune to fall over a table, which produced such a loud clatter, that Pivett was instantaneously awoke from his slumbers, and was not very well pleased at this mark of his guest's behaviour, and forthwith hallooed, in no small voice, to know what was the cause of such a great disturbance.

The forlorn soldier begged his pardon for awaking him from his sleep, and said that he was only searching for his bed. "Bed," retorted Pivett, "what the devil do you think I do with beds? Prick for the softest board and be d—d; it has been my mode for more years than you are old, and I don't see but I am better off than you at last."—The soldier, as may well be imagined, was astonished at this declaration, and stood like a statue, in the dark, not being exactly resolved upon the next step to take; but, at length perceiving no likelihood of remedy, he was fain to lie down upon the naked boards; and,

at the expence of aching limbs, pass the night in that situation.

Such was the comfortless manner in which Pivett passed so many nights, although to him it was a peculiar agreeable custom, as he had often been heard to declare, that if mankind were acquainted wich the luxury of his sleep, they would very soon accustom themselves to his mode of taking repose; and, in a very short time, the superfluous, and expensive article of furniture, called a bed, would no longer be in existence.

One of Pivett's odd customs was to wander in the cathedral church of the city, for an hour or two every evening, before the doors were closed; and he was always the last person in the building, save the worshipful presence of the door-keeper. This was a custom he scarcely ever neglected to perform.

One summer's evening, having been engaged in this (what he conceived to be) an important duty, and having lingered too long in an obscure part of the edifice, probably engaged in a profound reverie, the doors were locked upon him, and he was left to pass the night alone in that building.

After a considerable lapse of time, his ordinary

faculties returned, and he conceived it high time to return home, and accordingly proceeded to the great door of the cathedral for that purpose; when lo, the gates were made fast. Well knowing that it would be in vain to expect a deliverance, he did not fall into the common errors of mortal men, and bewail his unhappy fate in all the horrors of affright, but with the utmost composure folding his cloak close around him, very quietly extended himself at length upon a long bench (that stands just within the portal for the accommodation of the door keepers), and soon fell into profound slumbers. Pivett slept through the whole of the night as soundly as ever he had done in his life, and awoke in the morning about an hour before the doors were to be opened, that is about five o'clock. Pivett placed himself close to the front door, ready to rush out immediately upon its opening, and in that situation waited with the utmost solicitude for the footsteps of the doorkeeper, as he wished to be at home in order to pursue some necessary avocation.

It happened upon that morning to be the duty of the sexton to prepare a grave in one of the vaults, somewhat earlier than the doors were usually opened; and in order that he might not be

delayed by the doorkeeper, he had obtained the keys of the church overnight, so that he might commence his work at what hour he pleased in the morning.

At length the anxious ears of Pivett were gratified by the sound of this man's footsteps. The key was applied to the lock, and the door was opened. In the twinkling of an eye, out shot Pivett under the poor sexton's arm, and made the best of his way home.

The astounded sexton not perceiving the form of Pivett, upon account of his wonderful expedition, but feeling some animal rush past him from the church, verily believed it to be the devil in person, or some other notable personage of the terrific genera, and accordingly the keys fell from his hand.—His eyes goggled from their spheres.—His hair made desperate efforts to fortify his head with spines.—His teeth chattered.—His mouth horridly distended, and finally, he took to his heels, and proceeded through the principal streets with such an incredible dispatch, that he astonished all beholders, who naturally enough concluded the poor wretch was running for his life, or otherwise disordered in his intellects.

Such was the nature of his commotion, that

he knew not when to stop, but, like some flaming meteor, that is impelled by an unknown cause through the heavens, with increasing velocity, he appeared to be urged on his progress with increasing rapidity, until having reached the suburbs of the city, he encountered an old woman riding upon an ass to market, with her various commodities: this picturesque equipage he assailed with his breast, and, consequently, totally upset the brute with its whole cargo, to the unspeakable discomfiture of the old lady, who had ventured her chagrined personage upon so precarious a foundation; but whether from ill-luck or sympathy, I know not which, the poor sexton was precipitated on to the antique damsel, as she lay wallowing amongst her demolished eggs—squashed butter—cackling hens—hissing geese—quacking ducks, &c. &c.

My reader will not be surprised to be told that this novel spectacle embodied a considerable mob, who were at some loss to account for such a strange exhibition; the injured parties, were however after some difficulty pacified, and each pursued his own way,

The shock occasioned by this violent stoppage in the career of the afflicted sexton, had so far an

happy effect, that he was sufficiently convinced the devil had given up the pursuit, and had retired peaceably to his own kingdom; but so thoroughly was he impressed with the conviction that he had actually received a brush from that celebrated personage, that no intreaties were able to induce him to return to the cathedral; and he retired to his own habitation so disordered in his mind, that a fever became the consequence, and he was confined to his bed for a very considerable time, to the misery of his wife and numerous family, who were by these means deprived of their usual food, and were now obliged to depend upon the charity of others.

The particulars of this story, together with many additional circumstances, manufactured by the various reporters, soon afforded matter of conversation throughout the city; and, it at length reached the ears of Pivett, who alone being acquainted with the truth of the mystery, and hearing of the lamentable condition of the poor sexton and family, he immediately went to his habitation, and assured him that the supposed devil, or goblin, or whatever ghost he had imagined himself to have been attacked by, was no other than himself; and he forthwith related all the circumstances of

the affair, together with the cause of his confinement all night in the church.

But all the solemn asseverations of Pivett, had no effect upon the desponding sexton, weak as he was from the effects of his fever; he thanked him for his endeavours to remove the cause of his suffering; but he said it was a made up tale that would not set aside the pain he felt at his heart; he said it was an omen of his death, and that no human art could save him from a speedy destruction.

Pivett finding himself incapable of doing any good, left the infatuated man to his fate, and his fever daily increasing, actually carried him off from the stage of life, leaving a widow and six small children to bewail his untimely end. Thus was a human being, gifted by nature with reason, made a victim to superstitious fears, and a whole family made miserable, and driven into the vortex of woe and want.

Pivett lived many years after this circumstance, but at length died towards the close of the last century. He was upwards of ninety years of age, when he expired upon the boards of his own apartment, upon which he had slept for so many years. This room was thinly but curiously

furnished. It contained, at the decease of its inhabitant, one old worm-eaten chair, one crazy table, upon which stood an antique cross and an human skull, and from the walls depended a complete suit of rusty armour.

I understand there are many more curious particulars relating to the life of this extraordinary man, which certainly should be collected together and given to the world. Biography, properly studied, is, perhaps, of all other species of writing the most interesting, as well as the most beneficial to society, as it brings us immediately acquainted with the human mind, with all her actions and springs of action. The low rank or situation of a man in life, is certainly no reasonable objection to the value of his biography, because the great features of the mind are nearly alike in all mankind, whatever may be their post on the great stage; and, perhaps, the events of a poor man's life would contribute as much to the great study of man, as those of the most distinguished members of society.

But this essay having had a different object in view, than the relation of circumstances foreign to the subject of fear, I will conclude it with the hope that those of my readers who may unhap-

pily be subject to this weakness, have been more than amused by an account of so extraordinary a character as Mr. Pivett.

"Now, York, or never, steel thy fearful thoughts,
"And change misdoubt to resolution:
"Be that thou hop'st to be; or what thou art
"Resign'd to death, it is not worth the enjoying;
"Let pale-fac'd fear keep with the mean born man,
"And find no harbour in a royal heart."

THIRD

ESSAY UPON FEAR.

Speak! say what horrid phantom stalks in view,
And with terrific glare appals thy soul!
Or, by what strange witchery thou art mov'd
To this deadly gaze on dark, and empty space,
Which nought contains, but one impervious gloom!
Thy speechless tongue and mad'ning looks, infest
Ev'n my undaunted soul. Thy outstretch'd arm,
And form convuls'd, bespeak a troubled mind,
And act thy nameless fears: but this dumb shew
Is aching to my sight: I pray thee speak.

It was in the year 1784, that a gentleman and lady of Yorkshire were making the tour of Ireland.

Towards the close of one of those summer days when the threatening clouds appear to be surcharged with storms, they arrived at a small village, situated in a most romantic spot upon the margin of the principal lake of Killarney. Being that particular season of the year, when a great number of persons visit these celebrated lakes,

every sleeping apartment in the only inn that the place could boast, was occupied before their arrival.

However, the master of the inn so far undertook to remedy the evil of sitting up during the night, which our travellers so much dreaded, that he promised them a comfortable apartment in the house of an honest fisherman, which stood upon a wooded eminence, about two miles distant from the town, and was situated upon the margin of the same lake.

The gentleman appearing to express some anxiety during this account of the house and its inhabitant, was instantly assured by his present host that he might place the utmost confidence in the hospitality of the fisherman's family, for he had long been acquainted with them.

Having no choice of habitations for the night, the gentleman was fain to consent to the proposal of his landlord, notwithstanding he was under some apprehensions for the comfort of his companion, who was a very beautiful young lady, to whom he had lately been married.

They remained at the inn till after supper, when a guide was procured to conduct them to the fisherman's habitation, and being informed that

the road was too narrow and rough to admit a carriage, they left the village upon horseback, preceeded by their guide, who had every appearance of a wild barbarian, lately brought from his native mountains.

The night was extremely stormy, and one of those furious blasts that occasionally sweep over the vast Atlantic, and heave its mighty waters, now howled in dismal sounds through the immense woods that frown over the murmuring lakes of Killarney, or wildly whistled through the narrow fissures and yawning caverns of stupendous mountains, that seemed to slumber amid the gloom of a night of unusual darkness.

The moon was in her third quarter, and extremely bright, but her beautiful lustre was obscured by black and heavy clouds, that were borne very swiftly along through the lurid air; yet ever and anon, her pale light glanced through an opening in the flying clouds, and gleamed on the surrounding scenery.

The road was miserably bad, and so narrow, that the travellers were obliged to proceed singly. It lay through part of a wild forest, and they continued their journey in a gloomy silence, sometimes winding under the mighty arms of gigantic

oaks, that projected their knotted trunks over the pathway, and at others, slowly penetrating the solitary passes of rocks and woody glens. When the moon chanced to gleam her wan light through the cheerless gloom, they could perceive the wide expanse of a lake, at a little distance to their left, whose troubled waters added a sullen murmuring noise to the more wild whistling of the wind, and formed a fine bass to that solemn music which oft times plays amid the romantic objects of Nature's most sublime scenery, and has an effect upon the minds of those whose feelings are finely attuned, that no words can express. Vast and rude mountains, having their base cloathed with extensive woods, seemed to wave in mighty billows, in the back ground of the view.

Having spent a considerable time in climbing the abrupt steep of a rocky eminence, that hung over the lake, the travellers arrived at the door of a small thatched hut, that stood under the shade of some fine old trees, and which appeared to command a fine prospect of the lake, and all the adjacent scenery. Some large nets, that were extended upon long poles near the cottage, bespoke this spot to be the end of their journey.

Their guide had repeated a very loud halloo, that resembled the howl of some famished beast of prey, two or three times before the door of the hut was opened by a ruffian-like giant of a man, bearing a torch, who in a surly voice, asked what they wanted.

The guide having informed this man that the lady and gentleman he had conducted, were the travellers his master had sent to bespeak a bed for, the fisherman appeared somewhat more civil, and invited them to enter his habitation, at the same time making many apologies for the poverty of his accommodation. The gentleman dismissed his guide and the horses, with an order to return with them at an early hour in the morning, to conduct him and his lady back to the town.

The travellers now entered the house, but not without experiencing a very considerable degree of anxiety, on account of the loneliness of their situation, and the savage appearance of their host. As they passed through the small kitchen, they observed several desperate looking men, of very large stature, seated round a blazing fire of wood, upon the hearth, were they appeared busily engaged in roasting their potatoes; but, upon the entrance of the travellers, they im-

mediately fixed their rude gaze upon them, and by their ruffian visages, much alarmed the young lady, who held close to her husband, and passed onwards to a small apartment on the same floor (for the house contained but one story), under the influence of the most painful apprehensions.

Their host having placed a candle upon the table, and wished them a good night's rest, left them to their own meditations. They now found themselves in a small room, containing a low truckle bed; but with scarcely any other furniture. A small casement opened upon a view of all the surrounding scenery; but the darkness of the night was now too profound to admit of any object being seen without. There was no kind of fastening upon the door; and in order to prevent any sudden intrusion, without some kind of warning, the gentleman placed an old worm-eaten, but heavy chest of drawers against it, and by that means kept it close.

They at length retired to bed; but they were kept awake for a considerable time by the operation of their fears, and the wild music of the mountain blasts that howled round the hut, in most dismal sounds, and when a transient pause occurred, they were disturbed by the loud peals

of coarse laughter, that proceeded from the adjoining apartment; but the fatigue occasioned by a long day's journey, could no longer be amused by the operation of any outward circumstance, and at length the weary travellers fell asleep.

The night was very far advanced, when the gentleman was suddenly aroused from his slumbers, by a violent gesture from his wife, whom he found sitting up in bed, apparently in an agony of fear, pointing towards one corner of the apartment, and endeavouring in vain to speak. The moon was then shining very bright, and he could perceive her lips and tongue moving, as if in the act of speaking; but she spoke not, and retained a fixed stare upon an object, he could scarcely discern, in the most gloomy corner of the room, while her whole frame trembled with the most violent emotion and alarming gesture.

Her husband instantly became affected by her fears, and not daring to move, but wishing to shew a courage he did not possess, demanded in a loud voice the cause of her affright, at the same time, arraigning her folly for being infected by groundless fears. But, notwithstanding these bold ejaculations, he was himself most terribly alarmed; and, as he has very often assured me

since, there was something so horrid in the attitude and dumb shew of his lady, who appeared convulsed with fear, that he would in those moments have granted any boon for the happy sound of one single word from her lips.

The lady continued in this dreadful situation, and her companion in a state very little more to be envied, until the morning's dawn began to steal upon the surrounding objects, and with gradual light to render them visible.

As the gloom of darkness slowly gave way to the happy light of a coming day, the object that had caused so much uneasiness became more perceptible. In the before-mentioned corner of the room, stood a high-backed chair, over which had appeared the figure of a man, resting his arms upon it, and looking towards the bed, retaining one steady and immoveable attitude. In proportion as the light increased, the husband's courage returned, and at length he had the hardiness to venture out of bed, and examine the cause of their mutual terror; when lo and behold, it appeared to be merely the riding habit of the lady, which had been thrown across the back of the chair, and upon the top of which she had placed her beaver hat. These articles of

dress, so far resembled the portraiture of a man enfolded in a long cloak, and peeping over the back of the chair, that even in the time of day, it might, upon a sudden glance of the eye, have been mistaken for the appearance of a ruffian, watching for an opportunity to spring forwards; therefore, the reader's surprise cannot be so great, that a timorous young lady, in such a situation, when her mind was ready to receive any impression of fear, should, through the doubtful medium of a gloomy shade, have worked up her imagination to a pitch of phrensy, which was gradually removed by the increasing light of day.

"At last, the golden oriental gate
"Of greatest heaven 'gan to open faire,
"And Phœbus fresh, as bridegrome to his mate,
"Came dancing forth, shaking his deawy heare;
"And hurles his glistering beames through gloomy aire."

But such were the dreadful effects resulting from this trifling cause, that this amiable and accomplished young bride, bore the marks of the convulsive fear she had sustained on that fatal night, through all the remaining period of her life.

Before this circumstance, her hair was of a most beautiful glossy black, and flowed in such

elegant tresses, that it was universally admired; but so powerful were the effects of her fear, during that night, upon her delicate frame, that her hair, which had formerly been so much admired, became, almost instantaneously, entirely grey, and her nerves were never afterwards so strong as they had formerly been.

These were the effects of a different species of fear, from that which I have illustrated in the two preceding essays, and resulted from an apprehension of real danger, a danger that was probable from natural and existing circumstances, and consequently more pardonable than the fear of an ideal danger that could not exist; by which, I allude to all supernatural agency, which no man can pretend to uphold on any just grounds of arguments or reason.

Although this lively apprehension of actual danger is more pardonable, because it is more rational and natural, than that of fictitious danger, yet, since we find it is productive of ill consequences, and can never be of the least service to us, I hold it to be our duty to be as assiduous towards its eradication, as to wipe away all superstitious affections of the mind; because, we have always observed, that when a man has

been sorely oppressed by fear, in a situation of actual danger, his faculties have been so bewildered, that his reason has been prevented from exerting her natural power towards his preservation; and if his fearful delirium did not urge his destruction, but allowed him to escape, he has afterwards found, that had his faculties not been clouded and obstructed by his fears, he would have acted in a very different and more manly manner.

A very little accurate observation will convince any unprejudiced mind, not only of the great absurdity, but the great inconvenience of every species of fearful impression; and from his own feelings (if he pays attention to the workings of his own mind) he will find that they can, by gradual and determined efforts be overcome, and swept away, with as much ease as any other impression of the mind, that owes its origin to ignorance, superstition, and perverted nature.

Man should know of no fear, but the fear of death; and the pure precepts of Christianity would fain teach erring man to contemplate even the wreck of his own existence with satisfaction; yet nature seems to have planted an universal dread of apparent annihilation in the souls of her crea-

tures, which requires more than mortal efforts to overcome, and the Almighty God has graciously been pleased to impart unto his mortal children, the means of emancipating the soul from this horrid fear.

"Why this astonishment on every face,
"Ye men of Sparta? does the name of death
"Create this fear and wonder? O my friends!
"Why do we labour thro' the arduous paths
"Which lead to virtue? Fruitless were the toil,
"Above the reach of human feet were plac'd
"The distant summit, if the fear of death
"Could intercept our passage. But in vain
"His blackest frowns and terrors he assumes
"To shake the firmness of the mind, which knows
"That, wanting virtue, life is pain and woe;
"That, wanting liberty, ev'n virtue mourns,
"And looks around for happiness in vain.
"Then speak, O Sparta, and demand my life;
"My heart exulting, answers to thy call,
"And smiles on glorious fate. To live with fame
"The God's allow to many; but to die
"With equal lustre, is a blessing heav'n
"Selects from all the choicest boons of fate,
"And with a sparing hand on few bestows."

Who would not think and act with Leonidas? none but the base-born, low, and groveling sons of men, who wish to continue in the gloom of ignorance and superstition; because, like the owl,

they cannot bear the light of day, and like the ravening brood of locusts, that sometimes sweep the clouds of destruction over all the plains of Egypt, seek to extract, devour, and consume the small portion of vital good, that yet is able to hold together the bonds of society, and render life desirable.

THE

TRAVELS OF ABDALLAH

CONTINUED.

"O thou for ages born, yet ever young,
"For ages may thy *Bramin's* lay be sung!
"And, when thy lory spreads his em' rald wings
"To waft thee high above the tow'rs of King's,
"Whilst o'er thy throne the moon's pale light
"Pours her soft radiance thro' the night,
"And to each floating cloud discovers
"The haunts of blest or joyless lovers,
"The mildest influence to thy bard impart,
"To warm, but not consume, his heart."

TRAVELS OF ABDALLAH.

SECOND MORNING.

"Wish'd morning's come; and now upon the plains,
"And distant mountains where they feed their flocks,
"The happy shepherds leave their homely huts,
"And with their pipes proclaim the new-born day:
"The lusty swain comes with his well fill'd scrip
"Of healthful viands, which, when hunger cills,
"With much content and appetite he eats,
"To follow in the field his daily toil,
"And dress the grateful glebe, that yields him fruits:
"The beasts, that under the warm hedges slept,
"And weather'd out the cold bleak night, are up;
"And, looking tow'rds the neighbouring pastures, raise
"Their voice, and bid their fellow brutes good-morrow:
"The cheerful birds, too, on the tops of trees
"Assemble all in choirs; and with their notes
"Salute, and welcome up the rising sun."

Soon as the soft blush of morn had tinged the eastern canopy of heaven, and 'gan to smile on creation with renewed lustre, I awoke from sweet and refreshing slumbers, and immediately proceeded to the tent of Abdallah, in order to pre-

pare him for the further prosecution of our journey. He was already risen, when I entered his apartment and engaged in his morning devotions, which were no sooner performed, than he prepared for our departure.

We now travelled northwards towards the city of Dhuboy, a place of great importance in that part of India, and we proceeded, as fast as circumstances would allow, being in hopes that we should reach its walls some time before sunset on that day.

We stopped on our way, for water, at a village called Nurrah, situated at a small distance from Dhuboy. This unfortunate village had lately been destroyed by the ravages of a cruel and inveterate enemy, and many of the houses, that had been overthrown, were yet smoking from the fire that had consumed the greater part of the place.

As we proceeded through the desolated spot, we beheld a large concourse of people assembled together, amongst the ruins of a vast and magnificent mansion, which, apparently, had suffered from the fury of the enemy, equally with the more humble habitations of the peasantry. The eager expression of curiosity that was visible in every countenance of

the mob, induced us to quit our road, and enquire into the cause of such an extraordinary assemblage of people.

We were soon informed that the proprietor of the palace which lay in ruins before us, had buried many lacks of rupees, in a secret cell, underground, which was known only to himself, and the mason who had constructed the subterraneous vault; and that the mason was then at the head of a party who were endeavouring to find the hidden treasure, the owner having died, in a distant province, soon after he had fled from his country.

Our curiosity being somewhat excited by this account, we desired our informer to conduct us to the party who were engaged in the search. He led the way through a number of spacious courts, that still bore some remains of extreme grandeur; and, at length, having passed through several noble apartments, that were lying in ruins, we arrived at a dark closet, where we found the searchers.

In a remote corner of this apartment, was a cavity, about six feet square, that was supposed to contain the valuable treasure. In the center of the thick terras, that formed the floor, was a

small round hole which would, scarcely admit the body of a boy. We found some workmen busily employed in the enlargement of this hole; and when it was made of a sufficient size to allow a man to pass through it, two of the boldest men present, were sent down.

After a descent of several feet, the adventurers arrived at a second terras, or floor, in the center of which was a similar opening to that in the first. This being also enlarged, and torches procured, we could, from the top, perceive that the passage descended to a very great depth.

The dismal appearance of the gloomy abyss, that was now opened to our view, had such an effect upon the embassy, that, notwithstanding they were advanced a considerable distance on their way, they now absolutely refused to move one step more forwards, alledging, that throughout Hindostan, where treasure was concealed, there was certainly one of the most powerful Genii of the country placed there to guard it, in the form of a snake.

I could not possibly refrain from laughing at their distress, because I knew it proceeded from the most absurd and ridiculous superstition. Under this idea, I was one of the foremost

to keep them down, and told them that they should not visit the face of the earth again, but be left to perish in that hole, unless they would proceed forwards in the search; to facilitate which, more lights, and longer ropes, were sent to assist their descent in the dismal cell; and I also promised them a reward, provided they continued their search, without giving way to their idle fears.

After a long succession of threats and promises, they reluctantly consented to prosecute the adventure; and by the aid of the torches they bore, which cast a small glimmering light through the profound gloom, we were just enabled to discern the bottom of the cell, which appeared (from the distance and troubled medium through which we beheld it), not to be more than five feet square, and very deep.

Here they found a third terras, covered with a thick layer of earth, but they had not remained many minutes in this spot, before they began to scream and yell in the most dreadful manner I ever heard. Nothing could exceed the horror of their gestures, and terrific sounds they sent forth, and their cries ascending from such a profound abyss, seemed doubly horrible. In

such a mad phrenzy of fear were they convulsed, that it was with the utmost difficulty we learnt they were shut in with an immense serpent.

Conceiving all this uproar to be a stratagem, in order that they might be drawn up, I did not believe them, and earnestly requested that no ropes might be thrown down to take them up, until I had seen the snake.

This determination being intimated to the sufferers, one of them had resolution enough to move the lights in such a position, that I was enabled to perceive something like a thick piece of wood, lying upon the ground, and this substance they declared to be the snake. Having desired them to place their torches nearer, I cannot express the astonishment I felt, when I actually beheld a horrid monster rear himself up, with open and terrific jaws, while an immense length of body lay on the floor, coiled in large wreaths, that were all in motion, nor can I describe the poignancy of my feelings, at the moment when I beheld the two helpless wretches immediately within the fatal power of the most hideous of monsters, and that caused partly by my own orders.

Not a moment was lost in reflection: down went the ropes, and in an instant both the unhappy wretches seized them with an eagerness that madness alone could exert. We soon hauled up the two poor panting, terrified Indians, and to my unspeakable joy, found they had received no other injury than the cold and death-like state, the violence of their fears had occasioned.

The torches had been left behind by their sudden departure, and these remained burning by the snake. We threw down a considerable quantity of hay upon them, and by that means made a fire, that consumed the mortal part of the guardian genii, in a very short time; and we afterwards drew up the parched body of an immense serpent; but notwithstanding some workmen dug to a very great depth, no money was to be found; and it appeared to me most probable, that if there had been treasure concealed in that place, the proprietor had carried it off with him, when he fled his country. The most remarkable circumstance attending this adventure, was the existence of a large serpent in so small a cell, of such a great depth, and so well fortified, on every side, by the strongest

stone-work, where it must have remained for a very long period, without any visible means of subsistence.

Upon mentioning my astonishment at this circumstance, to those of the Indians who were standing around me, one of them, a Parsee, immediately informed me, that it was not an uncommon incident, and mentioned several similar instances where snakes had been found; and amongst others, said, that a relation of his, who resided in Surat, in capacity of broker to the Dutch factory there, having occasion some years ago to dig under his house, he accidently found a very large sum of money, concealed in a small subterraneous apartment, similar, in most respects, to the one we had that day been exploring; and was, in like manner, guarded by a very large serpent, of that species, which in India is called Cobra de Capella, or hooded snake, of this fact a number of people were witnesses.

The conduct of the broker, upon the discovery of this dreadful animal, was indeed very different from ours. Instead of murdering the extraordinary centinel, who watched over the hidden treasure, he gave it milk and several

other favourite delicacies, which the animal much relished; he moreover burnt frankincence in its immediate presence, which had such an happy effect upon its disposition, that it very politely moved on one side, giving the lucky broker an opportunity to remove the valuable treasure in perfect safety; which he had no sooner secured, than he very wisely presented one half of it to the reigning Nabob, and dedicated the remainder to charitable purposes. Since this adventure he has been esteemed a very lucky man. It is certain he has prospered in all his undertakings unto this day, and all his success is attributed to the wise method he pursued in the disposal of the treasure he had found.

So far the account of the Parsee.—I have always found that the Indians, to a man, believe that the Deity has every species of snake under his peculiar care; and, moreover, that he frequently preserves them alive, without any natural assistance. I suppose this strange supposition to arise, principally, from the accidental circumstances of their being found in situations where there did not appear to be any visible sources of subsistence,

Were these simple people acquainted with the same instances, which have occurred in Europe, where toads have been found inclosed in the centre of blocks of stone, wood, and other hard substances, without the least appearance of any mode of entrance, much less subsistence, in such a close and impervious confinement, they would, doubtless, believe, it to be an indubitable sign, *that toads were the chosen and elect of the* Almighty. I much suspect, that the superstitious Brahmins, are fundamentally the cause of this, as well as most other absurd notions which the poor ignorant Indians sedulously nourish.

Being disappointed in our search after the treasure, we pursued our journey towards Dhuboy; where we arrived after a short and agreeable ride.

Dhuboy, is an Hindoo city, that can boast of the most valuable remains of very remote antiquity. The fortifications which surround it, are nearly three miles in circumference; and the antient parts, that yet remain, are constructed in an elegant, and costly manner, being formed entirely of a beautiful hewn stone, having a covered piazza, supported by

pillars, and pilasters that are formed of triangle stones, and are adorned by very curious sculpture.

The four principal entrances, or gates of the city, are yet more magnificently decorated, and exhibit a more expensive, and valuable species of workmanship, particularly that which opens towards the east; this is called, by way of eminence, the gate of diamonds.

Many lacks of rupees were expended upon the decorations of this gate alone, and so great is the profusion of carved work, and fine basso-relievos, and for the Indian style of sculpture, they are so admirably executed, that the most superficial, and idle spectator, must, of necessity, be forcibly struck by its magnificent appearance.

Near the centre of this justly celebrated city, a spacious lake of the purest water expands its broad and placid surface, which is adorned by several small but beautiful islands, bearing groves of trees that are cloathed by an eternal verdure.

This artificial lake is surrounded, for the greatest part, by flights of marble steps, which descend to the very bottom of the water. It

was originally made for a reservoir of water, for the use of the inhabitants, and was formed at a vast expence. Notwithstanding it adorns the centre of a large city, and that containing many very considerable manufactures, the banks are ornamented by beautiful groves of mango, and tamarind trees, that suspend their luxurious foliage and fruits over the reflecting surface of the lake; while all around, trees of the same species are seen overshadowing the Hindoo pagodas, and splendid houses of the Brahmins, who are a very numerous class of people in Dhuboy.

I have seldom seen so interesting a spectacle as is to be observed almost every day in this city. Under the grateful shade of these verdant canopies, the weavers fix their looms, and carry on various branches of the cotton manufacture; and, together with the surrounding objects, form a most pleasing and gratifying sight, to a man who feels delight in the contemplation of earthly comfort, and of human happiness.

As the harmless inhabitants never persecute, or even molest, any part of the animal creation, the face of this beautiful lake is covered with

large flocks of wild-ducks, pelicans, and a variety of water-fowl which remain in perfect security, and feed unconscious of fear; while the trees are filled with peacocks, cranes, doves, and many other very beautiful birds; and thousands of monkeys jump about, and play their antic tricks, even on the very roofs of the houses. These animals swarm, to such a degree, in the streets of Dhuboy, that they appear far more numerous than the other inhabitants.

The multiplicity of birds and monkeys, resident in Dhuboy, is owing to the universal protection that is afforded to them by the Hindoos, who are the principal, and most numerous inhabitants of this city; which is by much the most beautiful and interesting place I have seen in the east; and the appearance of so many animals, that in other places are wild and will scarcely allow a stranger to approach them, but which are here so tame that they exist under the immediate power of the lords of the creation, forms a striking picture, and recals to the mind of the spectator, the beautiful allegory of man in a state of innocence: when surrounded by all the monsters of the forest, and the various

species of the animated creation, without fear of danger, or dread of persecution, and which state of innocence and purity, the immortal Milton has so exquisitely described, when he makes Satan first behold the inhabitants of this earth:

——————————" Where the Fiend
" Saw undelighted, all delight, all kind
" Of living creatures new to sight, and strange.
" Two of far nobler shape, erect and tall,
" Godlike erect, with native honour clad,
" In naked majesty, seem'd lord's of all.
" And worthy seemed; for in their looks divine,
" The image of their glorious Maker shone.
" Truth, wisdom, sanctitude, severe and pure,
" (Severe, but in true filial freedom plac'd)
" Whence true authority in men; though both
" Not equal, as their sex not equal seemed;
" For contemplation he, and valor formed,
" For softness she, and sweet attractive grace,
" He for God only, she for God in him:
" His fair large front, and eye sublime, declar'd
" Absolute rule; and hyacinthin locks
" Round from his parted forelock, manly hung
" Clust'ring, but not beneath his shoulders broad.
" She, as a veil, down to the slender waist
" Her unadorned, golden tresses, wore
" Dishevell'd, but in wanton ringlet's wav'd,
" As the vine curls her tendrils, which imply'd
" Subjection; but requir'd with gentle sway,
" And by her yielded, by him best receiv'd

" Yielded with coy submission, modest guide,
" And sweet reluctant amorous delay.
" Nor those mysterious parts were then conceal'd;
" Then was not guilty shame, dishonest shame
" Of Nature's works, honor dishonorable.
" Sin-bred, how have you troubled all mankind
" With shows instead, mere shews of seeming pure,
" And banish'd from man's life, his happiest life,
" Simplicity and spotless innocence!

* * * * * * * * *

" ——————— About them frisking play'd
" All beasts of th' earth, since wild, and of all chase
" In woods, or wilderness, forest or den;
" Sporting, the lion ramp'd, and in his paw
" Dandled the kid; bears, tygers, ounces, pards,
" Gambol'd before them; th' unweildy elephant
" To make them mirth, used all his might, and wreath'd
" His lithe proboscis; close the serpent, sly
" Insinuating, wove with guardian twine
" His breaded train, and of his fatal guile
" Gave proof unheeded; others on the grass
" Couch'd; and now fill'd with pasture gazing sat,
" Or bedward ruminating; for the sun
" Declin'd, was hasting now, with prone career
" To th' ocean isles, and in the ascending scale
" Of Heav'n, the stars that usher ev'ning rose."

I am sure that all my intellectual readers, will excuse the length of this beautiful quotation, when I assure them, it is justly applicable to the inhabitants of Dhuboy.

The scite of this city is so extremely low, wet, and marshy, that the stranger is astonished how its early founders came to fix upon so disagreeable a spot (when compared with the delightful situations that almost every where surround it) for the foundation of so famed a city. But an account of its origin, which has been carefully handed down to the present generation, and which is generally believed by the inhabitants to be true, at once explains the cause.

I have little doubt but this story is founded upon fact; but, as almost all the Asiatic traditions, and what the natives term historical facts, are mingled with the most extravagant fable, it requires a long and accurate intimacy with their manners, customs, and literature, in order to select that which can be relied upon as truth, and distinguish its simple garb, from the rich and many coloured robes that clothe their fable, allegory, and metaphor; but, as I am convinced that all those of my readers, who possess even the smallest degree of taste, will be much gratified by the account of the origin of this city, I will present

them with the best authenticated relation I have been able to obtain.

Many centuries have now rolled away, and have shrouded the innumerable events and actions of men, in an universal gloom of doubt and uncertainty, that now can never be removed; yet, amongst those few records which have survived the wreck of ages, is one that remains to inform posterity, that the rich and powerful kingdom of Guzerat, was, (in the early ages of Asiatic history), governed by a mighty, and invincible monarch, named, Sadara Jaising, (which, according to the derivation of their peculiar language, means the successful and strong lion), who held his residence at Putton, a celebrated and magnificent city of the north.

This powerful monarch was blessed in the possession of seven wives who were the most beautiful and accomplished females of his empire, and by them he had many children; but, as is always the case, where one man is in possession of so many women, he had his favourite, and this was the youngest and most fascinating of his wives, who, by way of eminence, was called, Ruttanalee,

or the Lustre of Jewels; but unfortunately for her, and for her royal consort, she had not the happiness to be a mother.

The other ladies of the haram, who were extremely jealous of Ruttanalee, and had ever entertained a deadly hate towards her, and sought by all the means in their power, to weaken that peculiar affection which the Rajah always evinced towards her; had, hitherto, made the unfortunate circumstance of her barrenness, their principal plea in order to alienate his love.

But, notwithstanding the beauteous Ruttanalee produced not the delightful fruits of her interesting connection, with the puissant emperor of Guzerat, yet that virtuous monarch had too much judgment, and too ardent a love for her, who contributed so much towards his earthly happiness, than to cast her off at the iniquitous instigations of a nest of jealous, envious, and abandoned women.

But, at length, a circumstance occurred, that caused a very great sensation throughout the haram; this was no other than the long-wished for pregnancy of Ruttanalee; which had been so ardently longed after by herself,

and the Rajah; but no event, whatever, could have been more unwelcome to her enemies, and their hatred became still more rancorous; till, at length, it knew of no bounds, and they were determined to have recourse to supernatural agency, in order to prevent the birth of the expected infant.

According to the superstitious opinions, and customs, of the Indians, they firmly believe in the power of the charms and spells which are made use of by their religious devotees; and in the belief, that the existence of the child, whose birth was so much dreaded by the implacable enemies of Ruttanalee, could be averted by these means, those wicked wretches immediately employed the necessary agents, and as soon as the superstitious rites were performed, they remained easy, under the ridiculous idea, that the unborn babe would never be an inhabitant of this world.

Indeed, so credulous was the much-envied Ruttanalee, that she firmly believed in the power of the witchcraft that had been employed against her; and was very uneasy, under the idea, that the talisman had already taken effect, and that so long as she remained

in the place where she then was, her babe would never see the light.

Impressed with these melancholy ideas, she requested permission from the Rajah, to remove from the haram, to a considerable distance in the country, there to remain until the days of her travail should be passed; and, in order to prevail with him the more effectually, she stated to him some of her reasons for wishing to take this step.

The Rajah immediately consented, and ordered a very numerous, and splendid retinue, to accompany her, together with every necessary, and luxury, she might want; and with this magnificent equipage, she set out from the imperial city of Guzerat, in order to sacrifice at a distant, but sacred temple of the Hindoo gods, situated on the verdant banks of the majestic Nerbedda.

After a very long, and tedious journey, she arrived, about the close of the day, at a hallowed grove, about ten miles distant from the temple to which she was travelling, and which was situated in the very spot, where the city of Dhuboy now stands. The dews of night falling around, and the light of day

gradually giving place, to the increasing gloom of darkness, she ordered her camp to be fixed in the grove, for that night, intending to pursue her journey on the following morning.

While engaged in her evening devotions, in her own tent, an holy dervise, or faqhir, who had long ago renounced all connections with the world, and who had, for many years, resided in the recesses of that grove, in a state of religious retirement, arrived at her camp, and requested an immediate audience with the princess.

Being admitted into her presence, he informed her, that the place upon which she had fixed her tent, was sacred and unpolluted ground; and that if she remained where she was, she would in a very few days be delivered of a fine boy, that should be the delight and support of his country.

Ruttanalee, who had, from her infancy, been taught to place implicit confidence, in the predictions of holy men, instantly determined to continue in her present encampment, and dismissed the dervise with many protestations of regard, and great fervency of gratitude, for his favourable prognostications.

The holy man's prophecy was actually fulfilled, in a very short period, and the delighted Ruttanalee was delivered of a most beautiful prince, whom, at the particular request of the dervise, was named Viseldow, or the long-expected child.

The happy news of the birth of a son, was immediately conveyed to the imperial city, and so delighted was the monarch at these joyful tidings, that he instantly declared the young prince heir to the throne of Guzerat; and being informed that his beloved Ruttanalee, was charmed with the spot where she had been blessed, by the favouring gods, with a lovely boy, and was fearful of the jealousy of her rivals, at his court, and did not wish to return, he ordered a spacious lake to be formed, and sent skilful artificers, of every description, to build a large city, and surround it by strong fortifications; he also commanded the most eminent artists in his empire to decorate the new city, by every species of costly ornament.

Having collected together the most celebrated artizans, from every part of his dominions, he placed them under the direction, and control, of one architect, a man of re-

markable abilities, and exquisite taste; who had the good fortune to live 'till this extraordinary work was completed, which has not only immortalized his fame, as one of the most mighty men that ever existed, but which has ever been considered, by the Hindoos, as one of the most astonishing productions, of one man's genius, that the world has ever seen.

So many years were necessary to compleat this immense work, that, by the time it was finished, the young prince, who had been born on its scite, had succeeded his distinguished father, as monarch, or Rajah of Guzerat, and he was so much pleased with the place of his nativity, that he made it the seat of government; and having sent for those artists who had survived the undertaking, he gave them valuable presents, as tokens of his royal approbation; but wishing to distinguish the man, to whose very superior talents, the city owed its greatest beauty, and chief advantages, above the rest, he desired him to name any reward for his services, that he could bestow, and he should immediately have it.

The artist replied, that being happy in the

gracious favour of his sovereign, he wanted neither money nor jewels; but as the place was yet without a name, he should deem it an high honour, and an adequate reward for his labour, if he might be permitted to give it the title of his own, which was Dhuboy. The prince immediately gave his consent, and it has ever retained the same name, even unto this day.

Thus have I given you the history of the origin of this famous city, as it is recorded by the best authorities; although some of the natives take great pleasure in circulating traditions, that contain the most absurd, and ridiculous, mixture of fabulous matter, which can well be conceived.

Immediately after the late wars, between the English, and the Mhratta nation, the city of Dhuboy, remained in the possession of the India Company, for upwards of three years, during which period it was governed by one of their civil magistrates; but one of the articles, contained in the late peace, stipulated for its restoration to the Mharattas, and its governor was upon the eve of his departure, when we arrived in the city.

The elders of the place, and chiefs of the various religious tribes, who resided there, appeared to be very much affected, and to feel with deep and sincere sorrow, the approaching change of government.

The change was, indeed, severely great, and appeared to the afflicted inhabitants, no less than exchanging light for darkness, and liberty for oppression. They had long enjoyed the protection, and mild influence of the British laws, under the management of a man, who is an honour to human nature; and who might truly be said, "to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with his God." But an evil day was fast approaching, when they should no longer exist under the heavenly smiles of freedom, domestic enjoyment, or their own peculiar religious tenets, but be compelled to humble themselves before the throne of cruelty and oppression, and put on the horrid yoke of slavery; and to submit, without repining, to the arbitrary will of an Asiatic despot.

Impressed with this painful consideration, the chiefs, and elders, of the people, came to the Durbar, during our stay there; and while the big tears, of poignant sorrow, trickled

down his furrowed cheeks, and snowy beard, an aged Brahmin stepped forward, and presented the worthy governor, who was about to leave them, with a paper, written in the Persian language, of which the following is a compressed translation; being divested of many high-flown compliments, and strained metaphors, which, though very well intended, seemed, as well as the general contents of the paper, too flattering to please the person to whom it was addressed, and his modesty would not permit them to be translated.

——" Mighty Alla! In thy favour thou "bestowest greatness upon whom thou art "pleased. By thee, the people of every "nation were created; and by thee, are or-"dained, all the kings and rulers of the earth.

"Amongst the cities of the east, is a place "named Sookisbead, or Dhuboy; the inha-"bitants whereof, were happy under the "government of Mr. F—s. His disposition "towards them was perfectly mild and just; "he was a protecting shield to all ranks of "men, whether they were rich or poor, that "sought it from him; he endeavoured to "maintain their freedom unimpaired; and all

"who sought redress for their grievances,
"from him obtained justice without fee, and
"without price. All that were under his
"protection were overjoyed; and reposed on
"the bed of ease. When he superintended
"the garden, all the gardeners attended in
"their proper duty, and all the trees of the
"garden flourished. When he took the poor
"by the hand, he made them great; and
"and when he sate on the throne of justice,
"his dealings were so equal, that under his in-
"fluence, the tyger and the kid might drink
"water from the same fountain. Often has
"he redeemed the playful kid, from the
"jaws of the cruel tyger; and under his go-
"vernment, the rich dared not to oppress the
"poor; for, in his sight, the great and the
"poor were equal. In this place we have
"neither seen nor heard of such an excel-
"lent government, as that of the English has
"proved to us. If so good a master leaves
"us, every subject will be as a disconsolate
"widow, every one will weep, as for a fa-
"ther, and mourn as for the death of a
"mother.

"Oh Almighty Alla! in thy infinite mercy "continue him unto us!"——

I have presented my readers with a translation of this curious paper, as nearly literal as possible, in order that they might form some idea of the mode, in which people in power, are addressed by the inhabitants of the eastern nations, and, having that object in view, I shall also give them a specimen of the correspondence between the petty governors, or small monarchs, of the country, upon any important occasion.

The beautiful and fertile plains, which surround the city of Dhuboy, are subject to the ravages of a set of banditti, who have their abode amongst the neighbouring mountains; and sometimes sweep, like a cloud of ravenous wolves, over all that exquisite country.

These mountaineers, who are called Gracias, claim the honour of being the Aboriginees of the country, and confidently assert, that many ages ago, their forefathers were driven from their inheritance, by the ancestors of the modern Hindoos, and were, in consequence, obliged to take refuge in the holes and ca-

verns of mountains, where their posterity has since formed a distinct nation, and built towns and cities.

Whether their claims are just, or unjust, I know not; but, at present, they are certainly considered in the light of public robbers, and, in consequence are feared by nations less powerful than themselves; and justly feared, for they are lawless, cruel, unrelenting, and vindictive.

Notwithstanding they are well acquainted with the opinion of the surrounding nations respecting them, they do not forget to make their pretensions to the honour of being the original possessors of the country, and urge it as a pretext to pour down their flying squadrons, upon all the defenceless villages in the neighbourhood of Dhuboy, to make their heavy demands of contribution, upon all the farmers and cultivators of land; and if these are not instantly complied with, the savage troops scruple not to commit the greatest barbarities, coming by night to burn the houses, drive off the cattle, lay waste the growing harvest, and murder men, women, and children, in cold blood.

During the Mogul, and Hindoo governments of Dhuboy, these ferocious barbarians, kept clouds of armed horsemen, in constant readiness to sweep down from their almost inaccessible mountains, and scour all the surrounding country, to the dread and terror of the whole nation; and as the Mogul and Hindoo chiefs, always kept a force yet more powerful, in order to protect their subjects from the cruelties of this merciless banditti, many bloody battles were perpetually occuring.

But the English were no sooner put in possession of the city and province of Dhuboy, than the governor, or collector, sent a deputation to the Gracian court, inviting their chiefs, or princes, (for that is the title they give themselves) to a conference in the Cutcheree or revenue court of Dhuboy, in order that their claims might be properly investigated.

This deputation was also authorised to propose a reasonable allowance, of the produce of every harvest, that should be paid upon the annual settlement of accounts, with the cultivators, provided they would remain in peaceable possession of their native mountains, and cease to disturb their neighbours. But on the

other hand, should they have the audacity to continue their depredations, in utter defiance of the British laws and protection, they were threatened, by the governor, with that punishment their atrocious crimes so much merited.

Having been hitherto used to very different proceedings from the former governments of Dhuboy, this remarkable lenity merely furnished the wretches with matter of laughter, and they continued, year after year, to increase their insolence, and add cruelty to their unjust oppression, till British vengeance was at length roused; yet before actual hostilities were commenced, on the part of the English, the governor dispatched the following letter to one of their princes.

To Gomang Singh, Ranah of Mandwa.

After the usual Eastern compliments.

" I have lately received a number of letters, " and personal complaints, from the company's " subjects under my charge, filled with the " accounts of your shocking cruelties, and " terrible depredations. For more than two " years have your letters, your messages, and " your visits, bespoke friendship to me, and " good-will towards the British nation; but

" your actions have been widely different
" from your professions of regard; they have
" proved your expressions of friendship to
" have been false, and have shewed, too plainly,
" that they proceeded not from the heart.

" I have long been your friend, and wished
" to have continued so; but you have soon
" destroyed the bands of amity between us;
" you have gone too far; and must now
" expect the consequences of your wanton
" cruelty: vengeance for the blood of our
" innocent subjects now hangs over your
" head, and shall soon crush you and your
" nation of robbers into annihilation.

" For my own credit, and the honour of
" the British character amongst the surrounding
" nations, I must chastise your daring outrages;
" and you shall surely repent having sent
" your last most insolent message to the
" Brahmins in Dhuboy, in which you say,
" that you will now act as you please, with
" impunity, because I have not the power to
" protect them. But this remains to be seen.
" The people under my jurisdiction will be
" protected. It has been your insignificance as a
" nation, that alone has so long withheld the blow.

"An elephant regards a Moschetto with "contempt, until he is stung too closely. "I have considered you with contempt, until "you have dared to sting me too deeply, "and you shall now feel what it is to rouse "the British to revenge.

"Thus have I wrote you the truth. Take "it into your serious consideration, for what "can I say more?"

The usual answer to such letters were anonymous epistles, containing nought but violent threatenings. These are tied up by night to the city gates, and are directed to the governor. Although these letters are always disavowed by the princes, it is certain they are written by their express orders.

Sometimes these anonymous letters are delivered with marks of the most horrid and unprovoked cruelty.

One morning, at a very early hour, two armed horsemen rode up to one of the gates of Dhuboy, by which some harmless Brahmin priests, and Banian shop-keepers were sitting, reclined upon a sunny bank. They asked, in a surly manner, whether the governor was then in the city or not. Being answered

in the affirmative, one of them threw a letter to a Brahmin, and desired him to deliver it; "but," said he, "lest you should forget, take that along with it," at the same time thrusting a spear into his side. The other miscreant also threw a letter to a Banian, and accompanied it with a dreadful cut across the breast with his broad sword.

In consequence of this unprovoked outrage, the poor wretches languished for a considerable time in the hospitals, before their wounds were healed.

Such repeated instances of their cruelty, obliged the governor of Dhuboy, to represent to his superiors, the immediate necessity of sending an expedition against these banditti, as many of the finest villages in the neighbourhood were already laid waste and depopulated: and the inhabitants declared that, however mild and equitable they had found the English government, they would prefer that of the most arbitrary despot, provided he would protect them from the ruin and devastation which the Gracian troops were perpetually committing upon their persons and property.

These considerations had the desired effect. A strong force was sent out against Mandwa, their capital town, which succeeded beyond their hopes in surprising it. It was immediately stormed, and although the prince himself made his escape, some of the principal females of his houshold were made captives, and detained as hostages, until the monarch entered into a solemn treaty of peace and friendship with the British governments of India, binding himself and his people, by the most sacred ties, to preserve it inviolably.

The governor of Dhuboy then wrote to some of the other chieftains, or princes; and I shall present my readers with extracts from the original correspondence upon this occasion, to shew that the British are (sometimes at least) unjustly accused of cruelty and oppression in their Asiatic territories, and in the exercise of those powers which are unavoidably committed to individuals in those remote possessions.

To the commanding officer of the troops in Dhuboy.

"SIR,

"On your being relieved from Baroche, you

" will march, with the detachment under your
" command, to Mandwa, the capital of the Gra-
" cians, and there endeavour to secure the per-
" son of Gomang Singh, the Gracian chief-
" tain, together with his Vizier, and the prin-
" cipal persons of his court, who have lately
" committed the most insolent outrages, and
" wanton cruelties, throughout the districts
" belonging to the Honourable Company, and
" which are placed under my care.

" If you succeed in your attempt of seizing
" the Gracian chief, or any of his principal
" people, you will please to send them under a
" proper guard to Dhuboy, that I may oblige
" them to give ample security for their future
" good behaviour, and settle such other pre-
" liminaries as are requisite, previous to their
" enlargement.

" You will, in the mean while, with the re-
" mainder of the detachment, continue at
" Mandwa, 'till you receive further notice from
" me, or the chief and council of Baroche.

" If you should not have the good fortune to
" succeed in the principal object of the expedi-
" tion, by seizing the Gracias chief, you are to
" make yourself master of the town, and remain

" there with the whole detachment until you
" receive further orders. So soon as you are
" possessed of the town and citadel, you will
" immediately issue out strict orders, that the
" inhabitants are, upon no account, to be plun-
" dered or otherwise ill-treated; but on the
" contrary, provided they submit, you are to
" assure them, in the fullest manner, of the
" Company's protection.

" Wishing you success,

" I am, &c. &c.

The following letter will also show, in the most satisfactory manner, that the British authority is not always abused in the East Indies.

To Kessoor Khaun, Chief of the Vazeria Gracias.

After the Oriental Compliments.

" During three years that I have resided in a
" public character at the city of Dhuboy, I have
" too frequently had occasion to complain of
" the numerous robberies, insults, and cruelties
" which have been committed by your subjects
" in the districts under my care; but I am sorry
" to observe that all my expostulatory letters
" have been written in vain.

" Some months ago you sent your Vizier to
" me, to apologize for your conduct, and to
" assure me of your anxious desire to live on
" terms of friendship with the English; not-
" withstanding which, your troops are perpetu-
" ally making incursions into our territories,
" and plundering the harmless villagers of their
" property.

" The whole of my conduct, since I have
" resided here, must have convinced you of the
" lenity of the English laws and inhabitants, and
" must also have assured you of my ardent
" desire to live in bonds of amity with all the
" surrounding nations, however opposite their
" mode and forms of government might be; but
" the various tribes of Gracias will not permit
" me. Either the one or the other of their
" Rajahs (as you are pleased to style yourselves)
" are continually sending out parties to rob and
" murder.

" I have too long submitted to this injurious
" treatment from all your monarchs. But the
" behaviour of the Mandwa Prince, who is the
" most powerful of all your chiefs, having
" exceeded all the bounds of humanity, has
" at length brought down that terrible

" vengeance which has been so long with-
" held.

" I have been compelled to send a powerful
" army and take his capital town. The surprise
" was so complete, that he narrowly escaped
" from his bed, and instantly fled into the depth
" of his mountains; but his wives, his daughters,
" and all his family, are now captives in Dhu-
" boy, where they shall be honourably treated;
" nor need they have determined on self de-
" struction if brought into my presence, for I
" have two much feeling for the delicacy of
" their sex, and two great a respect for their
" rank, and sympathy for their unhappy situa-
" tion, than to add to their misfortunes, by oblig-
" ing them to any action unbecoming their
" peculiar cast or religion.

" I assure you, I have neither seen them nor
" shall I attempt it, since they have affirmed,
" by being brought into my presence they shall
" lose their cast, and will in consequence in-
" stantly destroy themselves.

" They are kept as prisoners, only the more
" effectually to oblige the lawless chief to offer
" proper terms of peace, which I shall be ready
" at all times to attend to, provided the most

" respectable security is given; and no other
" security than Bhauts of the very first cha-
" racter will I accept from any Gracias.

" To you I once more offer peace and friend-
" ship, before I command the very same army
" to march against your capital towns of Va-
" zeria, and Valeria. Send a proper ambassador
" to treat with me; for all I want is the
" Bhaut's security for your future peaceable
" behaviour.

" I now assure you, that the person of your
" envoy shall be perfectly safe, and whatever
" may be the result of our negociation, he
" shall come in and go out of Dhuboy un-
" molested.

" It is not the custom of the British to
" be guilty of treachery; nor to break their
" word. Judge not of us by yourselves.—
" But if, in the space of two days, you do
" not comply with the terms contained in this
" letter, I will order our troops to march
" against you without any further delay.

" I have this morning sent out another field-
" piece, and more European artillery, together
" with two hundred Sepoy grenadiers, and seve-
" ral British officers, to join the Dhuboy forces,

" therefore you know what you have to ex-
" pect, should you refuse to comply with
" the terms I have offered you. Peace
" and war are now before you, choose which
" you please, but choose quickly.

" You are a Mahometan, versed, as I would
" hope, in the laws and doctrines of the Ko-
" ran, and consequently more enlightened
" than the Pagan Gracias. I have written
" to you therefore, as to a man of some un-
" derstanding.

" Why need I say more?

" From Dhuboy, 15th of Oct. 1782. } or the eighth day of the
" Month of Shaoval, of the Mahometan
" Hegira."

The conquest of Mandwa, and several letters to the same purport as the preceding, which were sent to the other Gracian chieftains, accomplished all the views of the governor of Dhuboy, without any further warfare.

All the different princes sent ambassadors, and entered into solemn treaties, which, in all probability, they would have thought proper to adhere to, had the British remained in possession of those districts; but being stung

with shame and vexation, by the disgrace they had suffered from the capture of Mandwa, a place, which from its extraordinary situation, they had deemed impregnable; and which, indeed, had withstood every attempt of the Indian powers, they never would forgive the person who had sent the expedition against them; and finding that the city of Dhuboy, and all its territories, had, by a late peace, been restored to the Mharattas, they secretly resolved to cut him off, upon his journey from Dhuboy to Baroche, when taking his final leave of the country. But it pleased that power, who "tempers the wind unto the shorn lamb," to defeat all their diabolical purposes.

Upon the morning of the day he had fixed for his departure from Dhuboy, a deputation from the principal Brahmins and elders of the city, waited upon him, to request that he would defer his journey until the troops marched to Baroche, for they had received certain intelligence that the Gracias intended to way-lay, and murder him, in order to revenge themselves for the sore disgrace they had so lately sustained by his persevering activity.

But this worthy and unsuspicious man, trust-

ing in the solemn treaties they had so recently entered into, could not credit their information, and only at their very earnest request, he consented to accelerate the hour of his departure, having been accustomed not to leave Dhuboy during the heat of the day; he generally travelled to Baroche by night, being upwards of fifty miles distant.

About mid-way, on this route, he had to pass the dry bed of a river, having a very wild tract of country for some miles upon each side, full of deep ravins, and covered with the thickest woods, which are the usual haunts of tygers, and other ferocious beasts of prey.

This wilderness appearing the most likely place for the concealment of an ambuscade, he wished to pass through it before sun-set, and accordingly he took his final leave of the inhabitants, and quitted Dhuboy, at two o'clock, which was three hours sooner than he had intended, as five o'clock was the usual hour of his departure.

He travelled, attended by six horsemen, leaving twelve more behind to follow with his palankeen, escrutore of papers, and other things necessary in this country.

Passsing through the ravines I have mentioned, a little before sun-set, he met with no kind of molestation, and consequently concluded, that the Brahmins had been misinformed of the Gracias' wicked intentions. But this was a premature supposition.

The horsemen he had left behind to take charge of his baggage, arriving at the same place only about a quarter of an hour afterwards, were suddenly surrounded by between two and three hundred armed horse, and about four hundred foot, all well armed. This force cruelly attacked the small troop, killed the principal officer, with some others, and beat and wounded the rest in the most barbarous manner; calling out vehemently for their master, and insisted upon being informed when he would arrive there.

Those of the horsemen who were yet able to speak, had the presence of mind to answer, that their master had passed some time before, and was then far enough from their power.

Fortunately this reply made them desist from further pursuit, yet had they determined to follow the road towards Baroche, they would very soon have overtaken the object of their

hate, who at that time, could not be more than two miles distant, on account of the slow pace by which he travelled, being drawn in a hackery by heavy bullocks, who proceeded very tardily.

The Gracias finding themselves deceived, became desperately exasperated, and added insult to their cruelty. They barbarously attacked and wounded the palankeen-bearers, and the other unarmed wretches, in the most horrid manner, and carried off the palankeen, with the horses and arms of their riders, leaving those who survived, to convey the melancholy tidings to their master; who, by passing those dismal wilds, but a very few minutes before, had, under the protection of Providence, escaped that dreadful fate which had awaited him.

" The Lord my pasture shall prepare,
" And feed me with a shepherd's care;
" His presence shall my wants supply,
" And guard me with a watchful eye;
" My noon-day walks he shall attend,
" And all my midnight hours defend.

" When in the sultry glebe I faint,
" Or on the thirsty mountains pant;
" To fertile vales, and dewy meads,
" My weary wand'ring steps he leads:

" Where peaceful rivers, soft and slow,
" Amid the verdant landskip flow.

" Tho' in the paths of Death I tread,
" With gloomy horrors overspread,
" My stedfast heart shall fear no ill,
" For thou, O Lord, art with me still;
" Thy friendly crook shall give me aid,
" And guide me through the dreadful shade.

" Tho' in a bare and rugged way,
" Through devious lonely wilds I stray,
" Thy bounty shall my pains beguile:
" The barren wilderness shall smile,
" With sudden greens and herbage crown'd,
" And streams shall murmur all around."

TALE SIXTH.

The relation of an adventure, from which may be derived much of interesting amusement, but more of important instruction.

CHAPTER FIRST.

"The wintry west extends his blast,
"And hail and rain does blow;
"Or the stormy north sends driving forth
"The blinding sleet and snow:
"While tumbling brown, the burne comes downe,
"And roars frae bank to brae;
"And bird and beast in covert rest
"And pass the heartless day."

THE storm grew more and more impetuous, and I now began, for the first time, seriously to repent my having valued the old woman's wholesome advice so slightingly. She had earnestly requested that I would not attempt to cross the stupendous mountains, upon whose barren heaths I now wandered in doubt and painful uncertainty, at least until I could have the light of day to assist me in my toilsome route.

But I was now too far on my way to think of returning, and, indeed, had I been so inclined, I was not able to trace back my footsteps through the darksome night.

The moon's pale lustre faintly streamed through transient openings in the heavy clouds,

that thickened from the north, and rolled over the heaving billows of the ocean, which undulated its black expanse into the deep gloom upon my right, through which, ever and anon, glared the quivering flame of far distant lightning, while the hoarse rumbling of remote thunder, growled in triumph over trembling nature.

The storm rolled onward, and the furious whirlwind raved amongst the forest oaks, and hurled aloft their mighty arms. The black pines that crowned the mountains towering height with sable plumes, nodded o'er the rocks below, and frowned terrific on the gloomy scene.

Alone, and surrounded by contending elements, that seemed to convulse heaven and earth, I urged my steed to his utmost speed, and soon found myself upon the summit of a very lofty mountain, around which the northern blast blew fiercely keen, and whistled o'er the barren heath.

I was now upon one of the loftiest mountains of the Highlands of Scotland, and so gradual had been my ascent, that I was astonished to find myself suddenly elevated high above

the dreadful storms which howled far below my feet, and exhibited a spectacle awfully sublime.

Above my head was a clear, but deep azure, bespangled with a countless multitude of stars, while amidst them all, the silver orb, that cheers the lonely traveller on his way, or lends her wan lustre to melting lovers, rolled in solemn majesty, proudly eminent. Far below my feet appeared a boundless chaos, that seemed to rend and tear the earth with horrid fury. It seemed as if I alone was to escape the hideous ruin of the universe, and was preserved by Almighty power to witness the final destruction of the world. The thunder appeared to rend the poles, and split the solid earth. The lightning, in streams of living fire, shot along the black bed of sulphureous clouds, and quivered through the lurid air, while an howling whirlwind drove furious from the north.

I had been so powerfully struck by the awful scene around me, that I had mistaken the road I was to pursue, and was now a benighted wanderer upon a vast and trackless waste, without the appearance of any object

to break the dead sameness of the dreary prospect, or guide my search.

As I stood in a thoughtful mood, unknowing what to do, I imagined I beheld the tall figure of a man stalking along through the obscure distance, by the edge of a terrible precipice.

I immediately proceeded towards him, and as I drew near, he appeared suddenly to awake from a reverie, and making a dead stand, called out in a loud, commanding, yet sonorous voice, 'Who art thou, wanderer of the night? that dares the inclemency of the northern storms at this dead hour, and steals along the lofty mountains brow?' 'A benighted traveller,' I replied, 'who has had the misfortune to lose his way, amid the darkness of the storm, and who is now searching for an habitation during the night.

The stranger immediately drew near, and in the most courteous manner offered me his assistance, in conducting me down the steep of the mountain, to a small village that was situated in the valley below, where he said I should, most probably, be able to meet with accommodation at the little inn it contained; and should I be disappointed in that particular,

he very kindly offered me a lodging in his own habitation, which was not far distant, provided I could put up with the poverty of his accommodation.

Having thanked him, in the warmest manner I was able, we proceeded down a narrow path that led to the valley below, and in a short time arrived at the village he had mentioned, and was soon directed to the little ale-house it boasted of as an inn.

I had no sooner informed the landlady that I wished for a bed, than she replied that the only spare one in her house had been previously engaged by a young officer, who sat in a small adjoining room, into which I was immediately conducted, followed by the stranger who had relieved me from the horrors of an exposure to the inclement night.

By the side of a cheerfully blazing fire, sat a genteel looking young man, in the uniform of an Highland grenadier, who rose on my entrance, and with all that warmth of genuine hospitality, for which the Highlanders of Scotland, even to the lowest orders, are so justly distinguished, begged I would not remove from the inn that night, as I was perfectly wel-

come to the use of his bed. But this generous offer I as positively refused as he insisted upon; 'till at length we could agree in no other manner, than a mutual resolution to spend the remainder of the night (which was now very far advanced) in the apartment in which we then were, and over a cheerful fire, pass away that time in interesting conversation which nature required to be employed in sleep.

I had now, for the first time, an opportunity of viewing the person and dress of the courteous stranger, whom I had met with in so extraordinary a manner; and never have I seen one in whom I felt so much interested upon the first sight.

He was very tall, of a commanding, and most exquisitely proportioned figure, that appeared no less elegant than vigorously robust, uniting great activity to uncommon muscular power. His hair was thick, black, and curling, and so were his broad horizontal brows, that finely contrasted with the snowy whiteness of an expansive forehead. His large dark eyes flashed the keen fire of a vehement imagination, that seemed to be without bounds and without measure, but at times their black lustre melted into

a softness of melancholy expression, whose meaning no words can convey. The rest of his features were in perfect harmony with those I have described, and a general expression of uncontroulable independence, and uncommon mental power, spoke in every look and every gesture.

His dress was so extremely singular that I cannot pass it over in silence.

Upon his head he wore a large cap, made of foxes skins, from the top of which suspended a plume composed of the tails of those animals. Over a piece of black taffety, that surrounded his neck, appeared part of a [illegible] shirt, of very coarse cloth. He wore a short loose kind of jerkin, together with a waistcoat made of strong leather, which he afterwards assured me he had worn for many years, and had no doubt but that it would serve him in the capacity of coat, for the remainder of his life. His trowsers were composed of the same durable materials, and upon his legs and feet he wore a pair of immense boots, having wide loose tops that turned downward. Over his shoulders was cast a broad belt of untanned

leather, from which was suspended a huge claymore, or Highland broad-sword.

Such was the singular garb of this interesting stranger, for whom I already felt so strong an attachment, that I ardently wished to learn his history; and I was not a little delighted, when he stepped forwards, and in the most polite terms, begged he might have the pleasure of remaining in our company during the night, not only from the motive that he might, in some degree, assist in alleviating the tedious hours we had to pass away before the morn, but he assured us that he so seldom met with any persons, in those wild regions, with whom he could hold any kind of converse, that nothing could give him greater pleasure than an opportunity of passing a few hours in our company.

The young officer was not less eager than myself to testify our pleasure at this proposal, and having informed our hostess that we should not require her bed, and ordered into our apartment plenty of fire-wood, and good store of provisions, we surrounded the fire, and became so mutually pleased with each other, that the stranger, at my very earnest entreaty, consented to relate the principal incidents of his life;

although, he assured me, that he fervently wished the waters of oblivion could wash away all remembrance of the events of his past life, and wipe away scenes he could not bear to contemplate, without feeling an enmity towards all mankind, and hate that existence, which was given him to be as a blessing to himself and his fellow-creatures, but a cruel fate had ordained it otherwise, and he bowed down to its decrees.

The stranger then commenced the narration of his life in the following words.

CHAPTER SECOND.

"How blest the Solitary's lot,
"Who, all-forgetting, all-forgot,
"Within his humble cell,
"The cavern wild with tangling roots,
"Sits o'er his newly-gathered fruits,
"Beside his crystal well;
"Or, haply, to his ev'ning thought,
"By unfrequented stream,
"The ways of men are distant brought,
"A faint collected dream:
"While praising, and raising,
"His thoughts to heav'n on high,
"As wand'ring, meand'ring,
"He views the solemn sky."

In me you behold the younger son of the eldest branch, of a very ancient and highly honourable family, who, through a long succession of ages, have proved themselves worthy of their name, and of their country.

I am descended from Scotch ancestry, and was born upon the family estate, which lies in the north-western Highlands. Although my parents were distinguished for the possession of every virtue that can adorn human nature, and

respected for great and uncommon mental endowments, I shall not call your attention to the events of their lives, nor trouble you with a history of their characters, because such a relation could have no material connection with those peculiar circumstances of my life, which have concurred to drive me for ever from the society of my fellow-creatures; and taught me how to derive happiness from an abode in the wildest recesses of nature, where I can contemplate the infinity of her God, uncontaminated by the vanities of man; and enjoy a train of lofty thoughts, inspired by the sublime objects with which I am every where surrounded, which my mind could never have attained amidst the tumult, the uproar, and the jostling of the vast mob of society.

The state of infancy seldom allows of extraordinary or even interesting events to an unconcerned fellow-being. My childhood was passed under the fostering care of a fondly beloved mother, and evinced no remarkable circumstances, unless I except the uncommon impetuosity of my passions; which, even in the earliest state of my infancy, refused all manner of controul; and as it was my fortune to be the

favourite offspring of one of my parents, I had full opportunity of convincing all those within my own immediate circle, that I would never bow down to any authority but that which I conceived to be just. This unlimited power, which I have hitherto possessed, has had various effects upon my character, at different periods or stages of my life.

During childhood it made me mischievous, headstrong, petulent, authoritative, and very desperate in all my undertakings or adventures. At this period of my life, I despised, with equal contempt, the advice or the control of any human being.

But as my days increased in number, and my years became more advanced, that reason which God has bountifully bestowed upon all the sons and daughters of men, began to dawn upon the darkness that 'till then had dwelt upon the uncultivated garden of my mind, and like the morning star, that glimmering in the east, dispels the vaporous clouds of night, and with beaming lustre proclaims the glorious birth of day, so with equal radiance fired, the bright influence of reason, dispelled the darkness of

ignorance, that 'till then had occupied my mind.

I now began to observe the effects of unbridled passions upon society. I found a necessity to control them, and render them amenable to the will and power of reason, that they might be properly regulated so as to produce good instead of harm to those of my fellow-creatures with whom I was connected, or held an immediate commerce with. Perceiving that almost all the evils, under which mankind laboured, originated from this cause, I immediately set about a reformation in my own character, and began to check the impetuosity of those passions which I had, hitherto, suffered to take their own course, to the great injury of my education; and by daily and determined efforts, I soon found myself capable of governing them, and directing them so as to produce great benefit to myself, instead of hurrying me into my former excesses; and I so far overcame my irrascibility of temper, that I was soon considered to possess one of the best and most equal of dispositions.

I mention this circumstance, (which *some* may deem insignificant) to shew that perseverance will finally accomplish the greatest apparent difficulties. I have many times (during that period of my life, when I was engaged amongst the public croud of society), heard persons declare that it is impossible to conquer irratibility of temper. This assertion is absurd, and ill-founded. The most irritable disposition can be rendered mild and placid by strength of mind, applied with all its force against the influence of those trifling and adventitious circumstances, that continually occur in life to vex and teaze mankind: I mean those painful realities of life, which relate to the means as well as the happiness of his existence, for surely no other circumstances are of sufficient influence to ruffle a man's temper.

If a man, possessing great natural abilities, who has unfortunately indulged the irratibility of his temper, until his peace of mind is perpetually disturbed by the most trifling circumstances, will only exert that degree of mental power, which Nature has blessed him with, against every impression that can weaken it, he will find himself gradually rising above the in-

fluence of all the petty and trifling accidents of life; which I consider all those to be that do not tend towards the perfectability of the human mind.

It has often given me much pain to see very highly-gifted men suffer themselves to be carried away by their passion, and consequently guilty of follies and crimes, which their cool hours of reason have afterwards so justly condemned, when with so small an exertion of their minds, they might triumph over such a despicable weakness.

It was at a very early period of my life that I began to perceive the great weight and consequence which a man derived from the cultivation of his mind. I soon found that knowledge was the only permanent power a man could obtain. Riches, indeed, I saw had an astonishing influence upon the general condition of society. Emerging from the shade of my paternal roof, under which I had ever been taught that merit was the only standard by which a man's worth, or excellence, should be adjudged, I very naturally supposed that those who had the greatest general influence in society, were the most meritorious for mental endowments or accom-

plishments; but I was soon most miserably mistaken. I found myself spurned and looked upon contemptuously by persons who were proud, ignorant, and in every respect but one, my inferiors, from the accidental circumstance that they were in the possession of a few more guineas than myself. The existence of such folly and injustice amongst a people who made a boast of their peculiarly enlightened age, gave me poignant anguish, and sowed the first seeds of disgust, for what is termed a worldly life, in my mind.

" What wond'rous prize has kindled this career,
" Stuns with the din, and choaks us with the dust;
" On life's gay stage, one inch above the grave?
" The proud run up and down in quest of eyes;
" The sensual in pursuit of something worse;
" The grave, of gold; the politic, of pow'r;
" And all, of other butterflies, as vain!
" As eddies draw things frivolous, and light,
" How is man's heart by vanity drawn in!
" On the swift circle of returning toys;
" Whirl'd, straw-like, round and round, and then ingulph'd,
" Where gay delusion darkens to despair!

Since almost every human being seems to allow that mental power, raised upon a strictly virtuous foundation, is alone worthy of dis-

tinguished praise; it appears strange to me that men should be valued for their superabundant wealth, when that wealth is employed entirely for the support of false wants, lawful vice, or destructive luxury. Did every man who is in possession of more riches than he can usefully employ for his own necessities, aid those of his fellow-creatures who were in distress, or who required a small sum to forward their means of existence, he would then indeed be worthy of praise and honour; even though his mind was not highly cultivated. And this mode of employing superabundant wealth can alone render the possessor respectable in the sight of every good and great man in this world, and insure him eternal bliss hereafter.

Notwithstanding I found the influence of wealth was amazingly powerful and extensive upon society, as it is at present organized, I perceived that knowledge was yet, and ever must be, the only power that could not be affected by adventitious circumstances, and which alone could extend its influence to after-ages, even unto all eternity.

I soon perceived that a handful of highly intellectual men, supported and wielded all the

nations of the world, and led the rest of their species by the nose, or directed them in what manner they thought proper, making them submit, upon all occasions, to the laws which they had formed; and, in fact, making use of all the human species according to their own will.

All that I saw, and all that I read, inflamed my ardent imagination with the love of learning, and being determined to perfect my education by all the advantages I could obtain, I solicited my father to send me to the university of Cambridge, where I remained until my twenty-first year. Having, during my abode there, perfected myself in the mathematics and the classics, I was now considered as a most excellent scholar, by all the students and professors of the various colleges, and my fame spread abroad with great rapidity.

Finding that I should not gain more by a longer stay at Cambridge, than I could now obtain by study at home, I took my final leave of the university, in which I had laid such a noble ground-work for a compleat education, and returned to my paternal roof.

I was no sooner re-established in my father's

house, than I began to divide my time between the sports of the field, and the intensity of my studies. I found great advantages from this division of my time. The delightful diversions of the field, formed a pleasing relaxation, from which I derived more advantages than many pretended wiseacres (who affect to despise all rural sports, because they have no relish for them) would imagine.

My constitution, which was not naturally strong, was by these means rendered extremely hardy. I found my spirits greatly exhilarated by having my imagination perpetually employed upon pleasing objects. I found my mind became expanded by the frequent excursions I made amongst the grand and beautiful objects of nature, and I am indebted to the sports of the field for planting resources of perpetual pleasure in my mind, which I believe I should otherwise never have attained, I mean for teaching me how to relish the beauties of Nature, to which I found myself gradually becoming so much attached, that I could afterwards scarcely endure the confinement of a town.

Another very material advantage accrued

to me from indulgencies of this nature; I always returned with increased ardour to the delights of study, after I had enjoyed a few hours sporting amongst the wild recesses of the neighbouring country.

But to detain you no longer upon this, comparatively, inactive period of my life, I will hasten to a more interesting one, wherein I have to relate those few important incidents which together, concurred to wean me from all connections with society, and place me amongst my native rocks and mountains, there to dwell in peace and solitary happiness, surrounded by all the animate, and inanimate beauties of the creation, and where

"Th' unbusied shepherd, stretch'd beneath the hawthorn,
"His careless limbs thrown out in wanton ease,
"With thoughtless gaze, perusing the arch'd heavens,
"And idly whistling while his sheep feed round him;
"Enjoys a sweeter shade, than that of canopies,
"Hemm'd in by cares, and shook by storms of treason."

The books I had read during my solitude had fired my mind with an ardent desire to see more of the world than I was yet acquainted with, for notwithstanding my long abode at Cambridge, I had acquired but little

acquaintance with my fellow-students, and having never made any extensive excursions, I was, comparatively, very ignorant, of the then present state of society, and knew still less of the geneal face of the country.

Being determined to commence my travels without any further delay, I proceeded to Inverness, which is considered the metropolis of the northern districts of Scotland, in order to proceed through the western Highlands, and enter England by the way of Cumberland, with the intention of continuing my route first through Great Britain, and afterwards to visit the most interesting of the continental nations of Europe. The first part of this tour I have always considered as the most delightful period of my life, and I shall with pleasure recount its principal incidents.

CHAPTER THIRD.

"Among the healthy hills, and ragged woods,
"The roaring foyers pours his mossy floods;
"'Till full he dashes on the rocky mounds,
"Where, thro' a shapeless breach, his stream resounds.
"As high in air the bursting torrents flow,
"As deep recoiling surges foam below,
"Prone down the rock the whitening sheet descends,
"And viewless echo's ear astonish'd rends.
"Dim-seen, through rising mists and ceaseless show'rs,
"The hoary cavern, wide-surrounding low'rs.
"Still thro' the gap the struggling river toils,
"And still below, the horrid cauldron boils."—

* * * * * * * * *

BEING determined to travel alone, I purchased a small shaggy animal, of a man resident in Inverness, capable of carrying myself and baggage, which latter was contained in a pair of saddle-bags.

The brute I had bought was a female native of Shetland, small, sturdy, and active; but arrayed in such a profusion of blackish hair, that a native of South-Britain would have

been not a little puzzled to discover the species of animals to which it belonged.

However, at an early hour, upon one very fine autumnal morning, I mounted my little beast, and took my final leave of Inverness; a place in which I had met with more unaffected politeness, and genuine hospitality than I have since found amongst the more southern inhabitants of Britain.

The route which I had determined upon taking, immediately after my departure from Inverness, lies along the southern banks of that western chain of lakes, which run, with a slight inclination to the south, in a parallel line, directly across the kingdom, and their shores and romantic neighbourhood afford the finest views in Scotland. Indeed the beautiful is so admirably blended with the sublime, that no description, however bold, however warm, or however flowery, can give one who has not had the gratification of beholding it, an adequate idea of the exquisite scenery to be found in these regions.

Although this truly interesting country is barren and unproductive, when considered in the light of civilization, and rude and uncul-

tivated, when the great benefits of mankind are contemplated; yet to the enlightened tourist, or the enthusiastic artist, it is a perpetual source of delight, and every where presents them with objects of the highest admiration. These will for ever rejoice that Nature has left so vast, so sublime, so beautiful a void, if a void it may be termed; for these, perhaps, would rather call it Nature's chaotic retreat, where she dwells amidst her unformed matter, and frowns with disgust upon the petty exertions of man, who in vain endeavours to make her works more perfect. But to proceed.

Soon after I left Inverness, I was directed to quit the beaten road, and pursue one that branched off considerably to my right. The great encroachments made by the grass and moss, upon the almost trackless path, shewed too plainly, that the wandering Highlander, or curious traveller, seldom disturbed the modest flowers which here and there bespangled the grass-grown road, and fully evinced the wild solitude of my route.

After I had ridden about six miles, my attention was suddenly attracted by a collection

of large stones, placed in two regular circles upon a small eminence by the side of the road. They bore the marks of vast antiquity, and I had no doubt of their being the remains of some ancient monument, which had been erected in that solitary place, to the memory of some renowned warrior, who had fallen upon that spot in the glorious defence of his country. As I know this to have been the custom in the early ages of Scottish history, I am more inclined to this opinion than to suppose their being part of a Druidical temple. This rude monument of antiquity, was formed by two large circles of immense stones, placed perpendicularly. The innermost circle was furnished with six, and the outer one with twelve smaller ones, placed in a reclining manner towards the center; but if you are not antiquarians, I have, perhaps, already said enough upon this, at least, unimportant subject, and will therefore proceed.

About a mile further, the scenery began to assume the appearance of grandeur; and upon reaching the summit of a small ascent, a view at once vast, sublime, and beautiful, burst upon my astonished sight. A long chain of

huge mountains appeared to the north, whose summits, being envelloped in clouds, seemed to reach the highest regions of air, and deter the eager sight from reaching their top-most height. At my feet, I beheld an expanse of waters, so extensive, that their beautifully reflecting surface appeared to know of no other boundary than the horizon, with whose distant mist they seemed to blend; and to my right and left, luxuriant woods extended their many-coloured robes to screen the barren nakedness of the rocks, whose heavy base was washed by the murmuring waves of the lake below. Perceiving no living creature, save a few scattered goats that were brousing or frisking upon the rocky ledges of the mountains, I felt all the ardour of enthusiasm a man is supposed to feel when he discovers an hitherto unknown country, and as I stood listening to the hollow dashings of the waters below, where they had broken their unwearied waves for ages interminable, I felt as if I alone was the lord and master of the universe.

The extensive lake before me was Loch-Ness, whose head, or source, rises at Fort Augustus, and

flows through a file of majestic mountains to the neighbourhood of Inverness, where it discharges its waters into the Murray Frith. I I could perceive the mazy directions of my road, winding amongst the craggs and woods which adorned the sides of the mountains upon my left; at no small height above the surface of the lake, along whose margin it continued, and by its elevated situation, seemed to promise a rich feast to the eyes of the traveller.

The extraordinary sublimity of the prospect I had already coutemplated, having raised my soul to an unusual pitch of enthusiasm, I proceeded forwards, as rapidly as my little beast could carry me, to explore the hidden beauties of the romantic scenes before me.

I had continued to ascend for upwards of a mile, through projecting rocks, hanging woods, and small cascades; 'till looking over a low wall (which seemed to defend the traveller from the tremendous precipice that rose over the lake), I found myself elevated some hundred feet above the level of the water, and from this distinguished eminence I had once more the delight to contemplate the exquisite scene, now rendered singularly

beautiful and interesting, by having a most brilliant and perfect rainbow, arched over from the north to the south shore of the lake, appearing like an enchanted bridge, built by fairy hands.

The thoughts that are inspired in contemplative minds, by scenes such as these, are indiscribably lofty and sublime, and are far more delightful to the enthusiastic imagination than can be the influence of any works of art, however mighty and comprehensive they may be. When I am admitted, as it were, into the deep and teeming womb of Nature, and when reposing upon her glowing bosom I am shut out from the cankering cares of this world, placed beyond the reach of her follies and her vices; it is then, and then alone, that I rejoice in my existence, there I can humble myself before the Deity, and adore Him in his mightiest works without being shackled, controled, and degraded, by any of the infernal laws of mankind.

Eager to reach General's Hut, from which I was to procure a guide, to conduct me to the celebrated Falls of Foyers, I staid not long to enjoy the rich views by

which I was at present surrounded, being afraid to delay time, least I should not be able to reach Fort-Augustus that night, which was many miles distant, and there was no other place upon the road where I could gain a night's lodging.

I began now to experience the effects of a misfortune I had not anticipated. The man of whom I had purchased the poor brute, that bore me and my luggage, had imposed upon me, for that humble companion of my toils, suddenly began to shew very evident marks of disapprobation at the roughness of our road; which, indeed, to an animal perfectly sound would not have been very pleasant, as in many places it became almost inaccessible, on account of the many loose fragments of rock, and large heaps of stones, which had been washed down by the late heavy rains, from the high mountains that rose immediately from the side of the road. On account of the frequency of these sturdy obstacles, and the increasing lameness of my poney, I was obliged to dismount almost every ten minutes, in order to lead her over them.

She limped onwards with great pain and difficulty, to my no small dismay, for setting aside the compassion I felt for her sufferings, I began to fear that I should be compelled to leave her behind me, to drag out a miserable existence in that wild country, and be myself under the disagreeable necessity of peregrinating a long journey on foot, ere I should be able to meet with a conveyance for myself and baggage. For here I have found no traveller's rest; no habitation of joy or comfort for the stranger to be refreshed at; no bourne for the repose of the wearied pilgrim; nor any good Samaritan to aid the wanderer in the hour of his sickness or death; but here Nature seems to dwell alone in her wildest grace.

I had already passed a few miserable huts that were scattered upon the declivities of the mountains. These lonely habitations were chiefly composed of a black kind of peat, which gave them a very forlorn appearance, that was much increased by having no chimney's erected for the evacuation of the smoke, which in most of the poor Scotch hamlets, remains in the apartment, until it obtains

vent at the door or windows. Some of the inhabitants, indeed, have the wisdom to leave a hole in the roof of their wretched cabins, in order to allow a free vent to the smoke; but others affirm that they wish it to remain in their apartment, because they say it imparts some degree of warmth during the severity of their winters. When I entered one of these mean dwellings I was nearly suffocated by the smoke, while the inhabitants appeared to be not in the least incommoded by it, so wonderful are the effects of custom.

At every step I now took, the country grew more and more impressive. The rocks became more enlarged, rugged, and abrupt; while the woods, as if more anxious to hide their haggard nakedness, and effectually screen it from the view, became more luxuriant.

The road becoming somewhat more even and level, I was enabled to reach General's Hut, by one o'clock, to the no small gratification of my beast.

This small inn derives its name from the circumstance of the Duke of Cumberland having ordered an hut to be erected on this spot, for his accommodation during the memorable rebellion

of 1745. Its situation is singularly beautiful and romantic, commanding one of the grandest views I ever beheld.

It stands about one third of the way up the steep of an immense rugged mountain, whose base is washed by the murmuring waters of the Loch-Ness, and whose awful summit appears to overtop the clouds. The precipice of this mountain is every where covered by thick woods of birch; whose tints, during autumn, are peculiarly rich and beautiful. The present inhabitants of the hut, had, by dint of great labour, cleared a small patch of ground, just above the house, which then served both as garden and farm. It could boast of a few potatoes, some small sheaves of corn, and herbage for a little black cow, at whose teats an *Herculean* wench was vehemently tugging when I arrived.

At the sight of a being so wholly different, in every respect, from those she had been accustomed to see, she started from her stool, and stood aghast; but in this sudden revolution she upset her milk-pail, and overthrew its contents, which were irretrievably lost, and wholly regardless of this event, she placed

her arms a kimbo, and in one steady vacant stare, eyed me from top to toe.

So profound, indeed, was the apathy of this wench, that all the shouts of mine host, (who had by this time sallied out of the hut) could not arouse her. It was his desire that she should act the part of an ostler and take care of my beastie; and as he found that words were of no avail, he took the liberty "*of lending his loving wife a loundering lick.*" This manœuvre, as might be expected, had the desired effect; and she conducted my poney to a wretched hovel that stood hard by, while mine host led the way to an apartment of his house, into which I was shewn.

I now found myself in a small room, whose floor, walls, and ceiling, were severally composed of a brown mud. One chair, and one table, were all its furniture; and the light made its way through a small window, from which I looked down upon a most delightful prospect. Over the opposite shore of the lake, a grand amphitheatre of rocks and mountains, piled on each other as far as the eye could reach, rose a sublime spectacle to the heavens; and the sun-beams striking upon the

snow that capt their towering summits, rendered the dazzling whiteness of a beautiful contrast to the deep blue of the sky.

Here the lake appeared to be scarcely two miles broad, and its placid surface exhibited a glowing reflection of the opposite scenery, which was only occasionally disturbed by the appearance of a solitary sea-fowl, upon the watch for its prey.

I made an hasty meal of potatoes, butter, and salt, (being the only provisions even money could procure) and sat out, with my guide, for the fall of Foyers, which was not more than a mile distant.

The road we pursued continued to ascend, without interruption, through thicksets and woods of birch, whose elegant branches being suspended over the road, formed a delightful avenue that extended all the way to the celebrated cataract I was upon the eve of beholding. As we drew near, the loud roaring of the fall began to be heard, and echoed from all the neighbouring recesses of the rocks. My expectation was raised to the utmost pitch by the extraordinary grandeur of all the surrounding scenery, and when my guide di-

rected me to look through a fissure which appeared by the side of the road, I beheld a scene that words can but faintly portray.

I saw, at a vast distance, in the very bowels of the earth, an impetuous river rushing in loud uproar, over huge fragments of rocks, which, by some violent cause, had been separated from their parent mountain, and precipitated in one tremendous crash, to seek repose in the bottom of that dark profound.

I was much surprised when my guide informed me that notwithstanding the water I saw was in such a depth of the earth, it had not yet arrived at the fall which was so justly celebrated, but that it had fallen an hundred feet over a rock that formed part of its bed about half a mile upwards, and was then endeavouring to find its way by another fall, yet more lofty, into the Loch-Ness.

Walking a little farther we arrived at a low wall, and upon looking over it, my eye sought in vain to measure the depth of a black abyss, that appeared to be interminable; my ears were then assailed by the tumultuous roar of many waters, that seemed to be endeavouring to find a passage through the very

center of the earth; and the affrighted spray, as if determined to seek an asylum in air, was rising in thick and convulsive columns from the opening in the rocks. 'Till now we had remained upon the road which leads to Fort Augustus, over part of the Morven hills of Ossian, from whence the river that takes these amazing transitions has its source.

In order to command a full view of this mighty cataract, it was necessary to descend to a great depth, almost by a perpendicular direction, down the side of the abyss; and as my guide led the way, he desired me to follow him with the utmost caution, for if it was my misfortune to make the least false step, all the powers of man could not save me from the most horrible destruction. This very necessary advice I found some difficulty in observing, for the ground was made so exceedingly wet and slippery, by the incessant fall of the spray, (which rises many hundred feet into the air) that it was with the utmost difficulty I could keep my feet firm under me. However self-preservation operated so strongly on my behalf, that we proceeded downwards with tolerable alacrity.

By the assistance of roots of trees, weeds, moss and stones, we arrived at a rockey projection which was about sixty or seventy feet down the precipice; where we remained a few minutes, in order to recruit our strength. Here, for the first time I caught a glimpse of the whole body of water, falling through a shapeless breach in a huge rock, above the eye, in one rude, unbroken, and impetuous flood into the depth below.

While standing in this curious spot, my guide directed my attention to the bold projection of a rock that appeared at a vast distance perpendicularly below our feet, from which, he informed me we could command a full view of the astonishing cataract, and that there was no possibility of proceeding lower down unless by the assistance of ropes.

With this information we again proceeded downwards, but our progress was rendered extremely tardy, on account of the stones (upon which we could alone depend for safe footing) frequently giving way: yet notwithstanding the imminency of my danger, I could not so wholly regard my personal safety as not to behold without a considerable degree of sublime pleasure, the fate of those fragments of rock, which were

broken off by our adventurous feet. After rolling from side to side, and being tossed from rock to rock with headlong fury and increasing velocity, they were at length lost in the foaming surge below, whilst the dying cadences of the secret echoes their passage had awakened, mingled with the hollow dashings of the water, and in a few seconds were no longer heard.

Watching the fate of stone after stone, I thought what a terrible, yet sublime mode of death it would be, to be hurled down that deeply-yawning abyss, and suffer all the dreadful transitions, I beheld the inanimate stones undergo. My reflections were not uninteresting; and I stood for a while in their indulgence until my guide (who was now decended far below), bawled out, desiring me to follow him with all due care or I should certainly miss the proper road, and consequently suffer that very death which I had been contemplating in my imagination.

Obeying his instructions, I arrived in a few minutes at the intended station, and was instantly gratified by the view of a spectacle, of which I had not formed the least adequacy of idea. It is not possible for me to describe the sensations of mind, this grand scene inspired. For some

minutes I felt so amazed by the vast sublimity of all the surrounding objects, that my faculties appeared to have suspended their functions, and I stood gazing upon the scenery before me almost deprived of sensation.

"Smooth to the shelving brink, a copious flood
"Rolls fair and placid; were collected all,
"In one impetuous torrent, down the steep
"It thundering shoots, and shakes the country round.
"At first, an azure sheet, it rushes broad;
"Then whitening, by degrees, as prone it falls,
"And from the loud resounding rocks below
"Dash'd in a cloud of foam, it sends aloft
"A hoary mist, and forms a ceaseless shower;
"Nor can the torpid wave here find repose;
"But raging still amid the shaggy rocks,
"Now flashes o'er the scatter'd fragments, now
"Aslant the hollowed channel rapid darts;
"And falling fast from gradual slope to slope,
"With wild infracted course, and lessened roar,
"It gains a safer bed, and steals, at last,
"Along the mazes of the quiet vale."

I stood now exactly opposite to the torrent; nature seemed here to have opened wide her boundless womb, and exhibited a mighty proof of her gigantic powers, and unsearchable profundity. A vast pile of shapeless mountains appearing to support the heavens, and having a broad zone of silvery clouds, playing around them, en-

closed this select spot and nearly precluded the light of day from visiting the black profundity of the abyss.

The base of these mountains, forming the bed of the river and sides of the vast cauldron into which the waters fell, exhibited a great variety of beautiful tints, and scattered clumps of young birch trees, whose autumnal foliage is peculiarly warm and variegated, and formed a fine and striking contrast to the gloomy wavings of the pines on the heights.

The rock, through whose narrow fissure the water rolls, is by admeasurement four hundred and seventy feet above the bottom of the cataract, and the fall itself, is about two hundred feet, bursting through an opening midway on its height.

This rock forms an immense cauldron, nearly circular, except the aperture through which the waters run after their descent, and this abyss is of an unknown depth no line being able to fathom it. Down this black gulph the waters were precipitated with a tremendous roar, that appeared to shake the rocks which frowned above, and the water, as if angry at being so horribly disturbed, foamed, and raged, and beat in furious

violence. The knotted trunks of large and ancient oaks were to be seen tossing about, and played with as toys and as baubles. By way of exciting a dread of going too near the edge of the precipice, upon whose brink we stood, my guide began a long narration of the death of an interesting young man, who had fallen a sacrifice to his ardent curiosity, when visiting that fall, several years ago.

He informed me that a young Englishman who was making the tour of Scotland alone, arrived one evening at his hut. The hour was late, and the light of day had faded away from the west, but the moon shone brightly, and all the sage advice of the host of the hut, was ineffectual in his endeavours to prevent the young traveller, who was an enthusiastic admirer of nature's romantic scenery, from visiting the falls, even at that late hour in the evening.

Some domestic occurrence having prevented the guide from attending him, the hapless youth sat out alone by moonlight, in order to ramble through the solitary recesses of those stupendous mountains which every where surround the great fall of Foyers and examine their awful features, through that subdued but interesting

medium of light which the moon in an advanced quarter oftimes gleams from her starry eminence, robbing night of all her ancient terrors.

This ill-fated youth was never more seen, after; he quitted the hut on that melancholy evening. His hat alone being found on the following day, hanging from a bush which grew about midway down the tremendous precipice, that guards one side of the great fall, was a sufficient indication of the horrible, yet sublime mode of death he had suffered, as it was a situation that could not be approached except by those means it was too evident the unfortunate youth had been compelled to undergo. It was supposed that in his endeavours to descend the rugged steep, in order to command a view of the cataract, his feet had slipped, and that he was in consequence precipitated down the horrid gulph, and dashed into countless atoms. His hat having fallen off, lodged by the way, on the bush where it was found. No other remains of him were ever afterwards found. But to return from this digression.

My guide informed me that notwithstanding I had then so fine a view of the Fall, I

should have a much higher idea of its grandeur and sublimity provided I could submit to be let down by ropes from the projection upon which we then stood, and lower than which I could not go unless *I condescended to be suspended by an hempen cord.*

Not wishing to deprive myself of any gratification that might accrue from a small risk of my own most worshipful person, I eagerly embraced so novel an idea, (at least to me) and forthwith dispatched mine attendant for the necessary apparatus. During the absence of this man I endeavoured to make a sketch of the grand scene before me, but after several ineffectual attempts, I was obliged to relinquish my design, as the spray fell in a continual shower all around, and made myself and paper so wet, that I found my exertions to pourtray the magnificent prospect entirely vain.

My impatience, at the long absence of my guide, had arisen to no small height, when he arrived with a parcel of ropes and a large stake. He drove the latter into the earth, very near to the brink of the awful crater, whose profundity I was about to explore, and

I confess the sight of the preparations which were making, did not contribute to increase the small stock of resolution I had formed, and the impertinence of my inward sensations soon convinced me that my repentance was at hand. The little dependance I could place upon my head was the principal cause of my timidity, as upon many more trifling occasions I had experienced such an excess of giddiness, that my faculties were completely bewildered. However the reward that was held out upon the present occasion, being unusually great and enticing, I endeavoured to put aside my personal uneasiness, and at length submitted to have the ropes fixed round my body.

As I prepared for my terrible descent, I desired the man, into whose hands I was thus committing my life, to suffer me to remain down for a considerable time, that I might make every observation I thought proper. I was under the necessity of being entirely at his mercy, in this respect, because I had it not in my power to afford him any intimation of my desire to be drawn up, or let down, on account of the tumultuous boiling of the waters, and the thunder of the torrent,

which would effectually annihilate all inferior sounds.

Having given my directions, I sat down upon the edge of the precipice, and gradually pushed myself off, at the mercy of the man and his ropes. In a moment every object swam from my dazzled sight, which suddenly became veiled as in a shroud of chaotic night; my bewildered faculties, no longer capable of their ordinary functions, flew in wild uproar to the confines of that wilderness where distraction holds her infuriate course, and where all is darkness, horror, and death. I suppose myself to have undergone the first and most painful approaches to insanity; my tongue cleaved to the roof of my mouth, and animation no longer invigorated my frame. Suspended in the horrible vortex, and dangling amidst angry foam, I became as a lifeless log. I can recollect the sensations which I experienced when I no longer felt the firmness of earth under my feet, and when nought but the emptiness of air surrounded me, to be the most horrible I had ever sustained. I felt as if hurled into a bottomless abyss, through whose dark and interminable extent, I was

doomed to fall, time without end. Had not an happy state of insensibility forbade me from a further knowledge of my situation, I should, doubtless, have experienced all the horrors of an incurable insanity.

How long I was kept in that situation I was then totally ignorant of, but I remember awaking as from a dream of terrors, and finding myself placed upon my back, by the side of the road which leads over the Fall, and the poor man hanging over me with clasped hands, cardavarous phiz, fixed eyes, and many other little inuendos that betokened his dire dismay. He had imagined my spirit was no longer of this world, and consequently was not without reflections of his own, touching the mode of my death, that did not sit very easy with him; however, I had no sooner perceived my situation, than I jumped up, much to our mutual satisfaction, and enquired how long I had been retained in my last perilous durance? He answered that under the supposition that I was enjoying the scene, he had suffered me to remain about a quarter of an hour; but when he drew me up, and found the real state of my feelings, he carried me

on to the grass, and amidst the most painful apprehensions, lamented my supposed death.

Being completely recovered, I was now conducted, by my guide, to the smaller Fall of Foyers, which is situated about half a mile from the other, up the same stream. This cataract is surrounded by very wild and romantic scenery, falls upwards of an hundred feet, and is rendered more interestingly picturesque by the ornaments of a very ancient bridge, which is thrown over a chasm in the rocks, immediately over the Fall. The mind of the feeling spectator is filled by sensations of awe, and not a little of uneasiness, when he stands upon this frail building, and bending over, eyes the immense profundity of the chasm under him, together with the impetuous force and loud uproar of the cataract which shake the bridge.

Although this Fall is extremely grand, and the surrounding objects remarkably picturesque, yet its vast inferiority to the other, in all the great requisites of sublime, or beautiful scenery, compel the spectator to the wish that it was seen before it.

The woods, water, rocks, and mountains,

which are disposed in beautiful or magnificent groups, every where arrest the eye, and fix its attention. I derived a degree of exquisite and undefinable pleasure, from a contemplation of the scenery in the neighbourhood of the Falls of Foyers, which memory still dwells upon with delight, and whose yet strongly marked lineaments contribute towards my happiness, when I turn my eye inwards, and look back upon the days of my innocence, my inexperience, and my youth, when I wandered in the ways of men, with the steps of a stranger, and felt an ardent desire to join with my fellow-creatures in the bonds of amity and eternal fidelity. Then, indeed, I considered the sensations my mind experienced from an intercourse with Nature's most sublime or beautiful works, as a very far inferior species of delight, from that which I expected to derive from the society of an enlightened body of my fellow-creatures, whom I had imagined to have herded together for the express purposes of rendering the condition of man more worthy of his exalted nature, than when immured in his native wilderness, mountain, bog, or fastness; but poignant in-

deed was my anguish, when in after-life I found my dreams of joy to vanish from my grasp, and melt into thinnest air. But to return.

I amused myself with making sketches of the scenery, until the fall of twilight compelled me to bid a lasting adieu to the magnificent prospects before me, and I returned with my guide to the Hut.

" Confess'd from yonder slow-extinguish'd clouds,
" All ether soft'ning, sober evening takes
" Her wonted station in the middle air;
" A thousand shadows at her beck. First this
" She sends on earth; then that of deeper dye
" Steals soft behind; and then a deeper still,
" In circle following circle, gathers round
" To close the face of things. A fresher gale
" Begins to wave the wood, and stir the stream,
" Sweeping, with shadowy gusts, the fields of corn;
" While the quail clamours for his running mate.
" Wide o'er the thirsty lawn, as swells the breeze,
" A whitening shower of vegetable down
" Amusive floats. The kind impartial care
" Of Nature nought disdains: thoughtful to feed
" Her lowest sons, and clothe the coming year.
" From field to field the feather'd seed she wings.

" His folded flock secure, the shepherd home,
" Hies, merry-hearted; and by turns relieves

"The ruddy milk-maid of her brimming pail:
"The beauty whom perhaps his witless heart,
"Unknowing what the joy-mixt anguish means,
"Sincerely loves, by that best language shewn
"Of cordial glances, and obliging deeds.
"Onward they pass, o'er many a panting height,
"And valley sunk and unfrequented; where
"At fall of eve the fairy people throng,
"In various game, and revelry, to pass
"The summer-night, as village-stories tell."

CHAPTER FOURTH.

"Low walks the sun, and broadens by degrees,
"Just o'er the verge of day. The shifting clouds
"Assembled gay, a richly-gorgeous train,
"In all their pomp attend his setting throne.
"Air, earth, and ocean smile immense. And now,
"As if his weary chariot sought the bow'rs
"Of Amphitrite, and her 'tending nymphs,
"(So Grecian fable sung) he dips his orb:
"Now half-immersed; and now a golden curve
"Gives one bright glance, then total disappears."

THE yellow beams of the western sun were now lengthened o'er the prospect, and no longer gleamed on the woody glens that were sunken low beneath its bright obliquity, and seemed to feel the soft pressure of repose.

The wooden clock of mine host had proclaimed the fourth hour in the afternoon ere I was prepared for my departure to Fort Augustus, which was fourteen miles distant from the hut, and the road I was obliged to pursue, laid through part of that wild, romantic, and (now) unfrequented tract of

country, so famed in song by the renowned bards of Ossian, and whose ancient name was Morven.

If the smallest prospect of comfort had been perceptible from a night's residence in General's Hut, I most certainly should not have ventured to expose myself to dangers I must infallibly risk in the journey I was about to undertake, as the extreme shortness of the days threatened me with the gloom of night at a very early hour in the evening; and as I was a stranger to every part of the country, which was so little inhabited, and so destitute of the common comforts of life, I felt somewhat uneasy under the idea of being benighted.

However when I considered the wretchedness of my then present habitation, and the probable supposition that I should meet with a comfortable abode for the night, when I should arrive at Fort Augustus; I became more firm in the resolution I had formed to quit General's Hut that evening, and accordingly the "mute companion of my toils" was caparisoned, and I mounted in order

to dare the dangers, or enjoy the pleasures of my ride.

As I quitted this humble habitation of rustic ignorance, and native simplicity, I felt my mind considerably depressed. The honest Highlander, its inhabitant, had been instrumental in affording me a degree of real happiness that few of my days has been blessed with; and as I slowly proceeded on my way, I cast behind many a look of lingering fondness and gratitude, until the rugged projection of a rock, or the intervening branches of a luxuriant wood, precluded my tear-distilling eyes from beholding its humble roof any longer.

As I rode onwards with my eyes bent towards the earth, and while my mind was busily employed in the most pleasing reflection on the various occurrences of the passing day, I was suddenly aroused by "the din of waters thundering o'er the ruined cliffs;" and when I looked up, perceived myself to be on the brink of the great vortex of Foyers, by which my romantic route led.

Here I beheld the most beautiful phenomenon that I had ever seen. The past day had been

alternately cheered by the rays of the sun, or darkened by clouds, but towards evening every impure vapour had disappeared from the clear azure of heaven, and suffered the departing glory of the sun to shoot his last beams over the varied scenes of reposing nature, ere the broad mantle of night shrouded them in darkness.

As I have before mentioned, the spray which is produced by the fall, rises high above the woody precipice surrounding it, and again falls to the earth. The oblique rays of the setting sun caught those minute particles of water which were dancing in the air, and produced by reflection the appearances of innumerable rainbows, mingled together in the most fantastic confusion, exhibiting tints the most various and brilliant that can be conceived.

This beautiful and singular phenomenon, united to the rich colouring of the rocks, the variegated foliage of the trees, the tremendous roaring of the cataract, and some detached columns of illuminated spray, that were playing over the tops of some trees more distant, formed a scene grand, beautiful, and impres-

sive in the highest degree, and I could not repress a sensation of regret, that I was obliged to quit the interesting spot so soon. But most of the pleasures of man are transitory and fleeting as the silvery clouds that roll over him, and he cannot command their continuance.

Leaving this scene, which I can never forget, I approached a range of mountains which appeared to be entirely covered by thick woods of oak and beach-trees. My road appeared to wind amongst them, and at their feet, the river before-mentioned, glided onwards in a gentle murmuring, and beautifully meandering stream, uninterrupted by any of those rude impediments, which in my former views of it, had so frequently disturbed the tranquillity of its course.

As I penetrated the woody recesses of these rocks, a secret awe, arising from the influence of the sublime objects which every where arose to my view, and a solemn silence that reigned throughout, crept insensibly over my mind. I appeared to be the only human being then disturbing the native sanctity of the spot. All was calm and serene, as though the creation

slept, and not a sound vibrated on the still air, save the hollow tramps of my steed, which were returned in soft responses from the secret echoes that were listening nigh.

The road turned with many windings amongst this wild scenery, and as I was slowly ascending the first rocky eminence I again looked back on the prospect I had quitted, perhaps, for ever. The scene was indeed impressive; the sun had nearly finished his daily course, and his radiant car which had now descended very near the horizon, was just discernable over the bold summits of distant mountains, whose lofty brows were tinged by his golden rays, while his fainter beams had scarcely strength sufficient to cast the lengthened shadows of the neighbouring trees across the road upon which I stood. Part of the lake, which was now left far behind, faintly gleamed through an opening in the remote mountains, and was scarcely distinguishable from the blue mist of evening, that forbade the pensive sight from embracing more distant objects, and threw a veil of softness over the scenery not to be described; whilst the hoarsely roaring of Foyers, now rendered a tremulous murmur by distance,

was borne along on the evening breeze, which now began to sigh amongst the trees, and warble wild her sweetest strains of untaught melody. My soul, absorbed in pensive thought, received a kind of divine placidity from the influence of these enchanting notes, played by the invisible minstrels of Œolus, who were now chanting forth their heavenly music in harmonious consonance with the beauteous scenery, and which could only be felt.

" In broken air, trembling, the wild music floats,
" 'Till by degrees, remote and small,
" The strains decay, and melt away,
" In a dying, dying fall."

Such exquisite imagery as I there beheld, might indeed have inspired Scotia's ancient bards with the most sublime conceptions in their poetical effusions, in which are sung the tender tales of love, or the great atchievements of their mightiest chiefs. Here, indeed it was, where the favoured bards of Ossian dwelt and sung amongst the rocks, and shades of " woody Morven."

Obliged to proceed, I again pursued my way, and leaving this picturesque and placid

scenery, I entered upon a wilder range of mountains, far more barren than any of those I had yet seen; and as the shades of evening began to darken the prospect, and render every object of one obscure tint, these rude barriers of Nature became of an unusually gloomy appearance, and rose horrific to the view.

The sky, which had hitherto been clear and beatiful, gradually became overspread by heavy clouds, whose sombre hues, nearly hid the pale face of the moon, as she was rising in solemn majesty to her distinguished station in the heavens, and by their encreasing darkness, portended a dismal and cheerless night, if not attended with those storms and whirlwinds that sometimes drive along through the northern mountains, and rend their massy heights.

I proceeded as rapidly as my peculiar circumstances would allow, and after a dreary ride I found myself in the middle of a vast black moor. I looked around with painful anxiety, and was not a little delighted when I perceived a man and a little boy, who were driving some small, meagre, black cattle, across the barren waste, towards a peat-built

hamlet, which stood at no great distance, and bore every appearance of perfect wretchedness. I immediately quitted the grass-grown road, and approaching the man, enquired how far distant I was from Fort Augustus. This obscure Highlander appeared to observe me with a considerable degree of attention, but made no kind of answer to my eager question; and as the anxious state of my mind required immediate satisfaction, I repeated it with no small degree of ardour; he then placed the first-finger of his right hand upon his lips, and shaking his head, informed me by this dumb shew, that he could not speak English, and I was then unacquainted with the Gaelic, which is the native language of the Highlanders.

You may easily suppose that this disappointment served to irritate my feelings still more, and I returned somewhat dejected to the road.

The genial and all enlivening rays of the sun, now no longer shone upon the earth, or cheered her creatures by the presence of day. The harsh screams of the night-birds already announced the close of twilight; and

instead of being gratified by the picturesque views which I had so recently beheld, I could now only just perceive the rude outlines of tremendous mountains, which appeared to be reclining in dull repose, and slumbering on their heavy bases.

"Both sea and land looked dark and confined, as if only emerging from their original chaos; and light and darkness seemed still undivided."

Even the melancholy pleasure I derived from the contemplation of the sublime objects of nature, thus indiscriminately beheld, was soon denied me, by the intervention of total darkness, which was but occasionally illumined by the transitory beams of the moon, that sometimes gleamed her pale light through the gloom of a cheerless night.

All the real and imaginary terrors of a benighted scene now rushed in full force on my mind. Wholly unacquainted with the road and nature of the country I was traversing, I proceeded with all the caution circumstances would allow, which was rendered more necessary when the frequent stumbles of my beast, led me to imagine that I had quitted

the beaten road. The intollerable suspense occasioned by this idea had arisen to a most painful height, when in an unlucky moment, my poor brute fell and rolled over me.

In this disagreeable and awkward dilemma, I found it necessary to sum up all my resolution, for in my endeavours to extricate myself, I was not a little dismayed by finding my right leg and thigh considerably bruised by the weight of the animal as she laid upon me. Many very painful minutes were elapsed before I was able to move from this disagreable situation, and I was no sooner freed, than I began to grope all around, in order to be certain whether I was really on the beaten road or not, and too soon I had the mortification, to find myself amongst loose fragments of rock, stones, and heath, while no cheering object met my grasp. I was now fully convinced that I trod no regular road, and consequently my spirits received a considerable degree of depression.

The growing violence of the wind that howled amongst the troubled heath, sometimes in deepened murmurs like the distant roaring of a tempestuous ocean, and at others in wild

whistling, like "a thousand ghosts shrieking at once on the hollow blast," indicated the rising storm. Heavy drops of rain fell rapidly, and soon wetted me to the skin; while the hoarse rumbling of remote thunder shook along the earth, and portended dreadful meaning, and the black horizon seemed illumined at uncertain intervals by the pale flashes of distant lightning, which, darting its sudden blaze across the darkened face of heaven, seemed to encrease the thick gloom of the surrounding space, that possessed terrors to me I had never before experienced.

"Nothing but lamentable sounds were heard,
"Nor aught was seen but ghastly views of death."

The thunder now came rolling on the blast, shaking the very ground upon which I stood, and the vivid lightning flashed in forked and sulphureous blaze across the heathy waste, making night more hideous. All the elements seemed as if mingled in furious combat, and contending for victory; whilst the darkness, mixed with fire and thunder, appeared about to consume me, and annihilate all Nature. For a while I stood appalled, and confessed

the awe that humbled me into nought; but at length, actuated by a sudden fit of despair, I stuck spurs into my equally terrified companion, who darted with amazing rapidity across the dessolated wilderness, and was continuing at full speed, when our career received a shock at once sudden and unexpected. In an instant I was precipitated, with my mare, down an abrupt precipice, and plunged into some water, which very luckily was not deep, and my beast regained her footing; yet the violence of the shock, and the danger of her situation, having rendered her for a while motionless, I had an opportunity of remounting.

At this critical juncture a rent appeared in the agitated heavens, immediately over my head, and a broad flame of sulphureous fire wheeled its pale course over the reflecting surface of a troubled lake, whose murmuring waters now surrounded me, and which the vivid blaze had enabled me to distinguish.

The only mode I could adopt in order to extricate myself from so unpleasant a situation, was in giving the reins to my mare, whose instinct, in this case, was of more beneficial

consequence to me, than any effort of my own reason, and I soon found by the splashing of the water that she had gained a shallow part of the water, and in a short time I was again placed on dry ground.

I now wandered about without the least prospect of relief, and unknowing what direction to take, whilst the furious tempest having lessened its virulence, was borne by the howling blast to some more distant region.

A dead impenetrable gloom succeeded, and I was involved in total darkness. Despairing of any kindly roof to shelter my fatigued body from the chilling damps of night, I cast myself upon the ground in the hope that I should find in repose some balm for my agitated feelings; but no soft slumbers visited my way-worn frame, and I vainly courted the balmy influence of sleep.

Lying upon the ground, with my aching head rested upon my hand, and engaged in melancholy reflections, I suddenly heard the loud barking of a dog, not afar off, and I then, for the first time, perceived that my mare had broken from me. This circumstance induced me to believe that she had discovered

some human habitation, and had disturbed the cur, whose shrill voice I had heard. I immediately started up, and beheld at a considerable distance, a dim twinkling light, which at intervals disappeared. Being under some apprehensions that this appearance should prove no other than an *ignis fatuus*, exhaled from some lonely quagmire, I pursued it with the utmost caution; but when I drew nearer it appeared more steady, and I soon had the satisfaction to find that it glimmered through the crevices of a small hut, by which I found my mare.

The dog, which had led me to this happy discovery, now barked with loud defiance, and seemed determined to deter my entrance; however, this did not prevent my search for the door, and upon opening it such columns of thick smoke issued from it that I was obliged to stand for a few minutes on the outside, until a sufficient portion of fresh air was admitted into the wretched cabin.

When I had gained an entrance I found it proceeded from the remains of a peat-fire, upon the ground, whose dying embers were then emitting their latest flames. So close

and thick was the atmosphere of this small room, that a considerable time elapsed ere I was able to perceive any object which could gratify my eager search. At length, a transient gleam from the expiring flames on the hearth, discovered to my sight the figure of a man, extended at his length upon an old couch. A few worn out implements of husbandry were lying upon the ground near his feet, and a shepherds staff rested against the wall.

I approached him, and for a moment contemplated his face and figure, as he lay buried in those profound and sweet slumbers which alone attends the nightly couches of health and innocence, and of those few happy mortals that are yet unacquainted with the bitter gall of dependance, and whose peace is yet undisturbed by the stings of an offended conscience.

I do not recollect that I have ever seen so fine, so dignified a man as was this lowly Highlander. His stature was tall, remarkably well proportioned, and truly god-like; his face was expressive of all the nobler qualities of the mind, and exhibited not one of those marks of villainy, without some of which I have seldom seen an

inhabitant of any of the public walks of society; and a degree of native independence, beamed in his countenance, that appeared incapable of suffering the smallest shackle or controul.

He was in his clothes (such as they were) ready to rise with the earliest dawn, and by him stood his dog, the faithful companion of all his toils, who had slunk scowling back to his master's side, upon my entrance, appearing much dissatisfied with my behaviour. Wishing to have my anxiety removed as soon as possible, I took the sleeping inhabitant of this lonely hut by the arm, and shaking him violently, I awoke him.

Some moments passed before he was sufficiently awake to comprehend the meaning of an interview, which appeared to him more like the effects of a dream, than a reality; but he had no sooner learnt that I was alone, benighted, and had lost my way, than he with all that generosity which ever accompanies a great and uncorrupted mind, offered to conduct me to my journey's end.

Never was an offer so axceptable to me, and I promised to reward him equal to his services; but when I wished him to take a small some of money which I offered to him, he observed that

it would be of little or no use to him who could not spend it if it was in his possession, and he therefore declined receiving it.

After some parley we sat out together for the Fort; I rode on horseback, while he walked by my side leading my mare. From the conversation which I held with this honest man, I found that I had wandered full five miles out of my proper road, and that we had seven more to traverse ere we reached the Fort. We continued an almost silent journey for about an hour and an half, when having ascended an high hill, my guide pointed to the lights of the Fort, that dimly twinkled through the misty vapours which almost perpetually hang over the lake, upon whose margin this building and small town is erected.

Our decent was now gradual for a very considerable distance, until we arrived at the bottom of the mountain, from which a wooden bridge, of an amazing length, is thrown across a broad arm of the lake, and by which the Fort is entered from that side. Like most of the bridges in that part of Scotland, this is raised to a vast height above the surface of the water below, and is moreover extremely dangerous.

to pass along in the night, on account of the want of railing at the sides, where there is nothing put to prevent the traveller from falling into the lake.

It was about the hour of midnight when we attempted to cross this fatal bridge, and the night was unusually dark and silent; no sounds were heard save the gentle murmurs of the lake below, and the hollow tramps of my mare's feet, as she paced the rotten boards of the bridge, which indeed produced a rumbling noise, that at any other time might not have been unpleasant, but which then conveyed to my mind the terrible idea that the bridge would inevitably give way, and this painful sensation was much augmented by the actual shaking of that frail building.

About the mid-way over, my mare made a sudden stand, and all the whipping and spurring I could make use of had no effect in making her proceed. Thinking this dead pause very strange, I called to my guide, who had insensibly slunk back, to come forward and examine into the cause of her fright. He did so, and to the latest hour of my life I

CHAPTER FIFTH.

"Meantime the village rouses up the fire;
"While well attested, and as well believ'd,
"Heard solemn, goes the goblin-story round;
"Till superstitious horror creeps o'er all."

AFTER a few minutes solemn pause, a body of invalids sallied from the fort, with lights in their hands; and upon approaching the fatal spot, their lanthorns discovered to my aching sight a tremendous chasm, made by a giving way of a large part of the bridge and by which means had my unfortunate guide sunk to all the horrors of an untimely death.

This part of the bridge was undergoing some repairs, and the careless workmen having neglected to place any barrier, a hideous gulph yawned to my sight, which I had no other means of passing, than by calling to some invalids of the Fort, desiring them to procure a few long planks, which I ordered to be laid across the chasm. This being done, and after they were united together as closely as circumstances would allow, I ventured to cross the dangerous place, and had

the good fortune to reach the opposite side in perfect safety, though not without being opprest by the most melancholy thoughts. I related the sad story to those of the invalids who had so kindly assisted me, and begged that they would use every exertion in their power to discover the body of the unfortunate man, who had fallen so dreadful a sacirfice to his voluntary generosity, and I promised a considerable reward to those who should convey it to me at the little inn where I intended to remain during the night. When I had stimulated them sufficiently to the painful search, I took my leave and went in quest of the public house, which stood at no great distance from the foot of the bridge.

My little shelty, whose instinct had been (upon two occasions that melancholy night) instrumental in the preservation of my life, being housed and properly taken care of, I was conducted by a little skinny old hag into a miserable habitation, which was there considered as an hotel of vast magnitude and convenience.

Perceiving that my language and manners bore not the least resemblance to the Scotch, she imagined that I was an Englishman, and in this belief began to squeak such an horrid dialect that

I was obliged to put a stop to a stream of the very lowest cockney eloquence that entirely disorganised my delicate hearing. I was made to understand that she was a native of Chatham, and that she thoroughly dispised the Scotch *canaille* by whom she was surrounded: observing that "no christian would live among such filth, if he could live any where else, and that for her part, she was *necessited* to dwell there because her husband who had been a soldier, was dead and had left her that inn for her fortune; and that being the case she could not leave it." However, she observed that as I was an Englishman and a proper christian, I should have a good supper.

I put an end to her loquacity by desiring to be shewn into a room. I was directed into the kitchen, whose peat-fire being surrounded by some half-naked, lousy wretches, drinking whiskey, I was so disgusted that I retired to my bedroom, in which I ordered a fire to be made. This apartment was (if possible) more filthy than the other, and the floor which was made of mud not having been swept out, I suppose since its first formation, was covered to the depth of several inches with dust and dirt, amongst which all manner of noxious insects held their

abode. One corner of the room was screened from my view by a large piece of coarse cloth, that was suspended from the ceiling to the ground. No bed appearing in the apartment, and this cloth being stained in several parts with blood, while a large congealed mass stood beneath upon the ground, my curiosity tempted me to remove the coarse veil that held me in suspense, but dreading to behold some shocking object (which indeed my imagination had instantly formed, the first moment in which I had beheld the mysterious spot;) horror for what I might see, continued for some time to prevent my curiosity from being gratified. The murdered body of some miserable human being, perhaps newly slain, and then weltering in its gore, presented itself, arrayed in all its ghastly terrors to my disordered imagination, and deterred my adventurous hands, which were several times extended for the purpose of removing the mystery, and which as often relinquished the attempt.

At length hearing footsteps upon the staircase, I rushed forwards, seized the cloth, and throwing it upon one side, discovered a sight, amidst

all my terrors I could not have conceived. Instead of the murdered body of an human being, I beheld, suspended by the heels, a newly slaughtered sheep, dripping gore. So powerful is the effect caused upon the imagination by a combination of melancholy or disagreeable images, that my mind had been worked up to an unusual pitch of terrific expectation, by this simple appearance.

Much indeed might be said on behalf of such a temperature of mind, in my then present situation. The poignant anguish which I felt from the unfortunate fate of the poor Highlander, who had fallen a sacrifice to my own interests, oppressed my mind, while the gloom of a stormy night, the loneliness and ignorance of my real situation, and the combination of so many disagreeable and sadly-presaging images, all conspired against her peace. A man who could not have felt alive, and been solemnly impressed by so many melancholy objects, must indeed have been devoid of all sensibility and feeling.

The footsteps I had heard upon the stairs were those of my antique hostess, who was coming with a large knife in her hand, to

dismember part of the sheep before-mentioned for my supper; but had this wrinkled hag presented herself, with her great knife, before I had discovered the carcass of the sheep, and while I was labouring under the painful influence of so many shocking presages, some bad effects would, in all probability, have been the consequence of her intrusion. She made many apologies for hanging the sheep in that part of her house, but alledged that she had no other place where it would be safe from the attacks of vermin, and therefore whenever she had any meat, (which was about once, or perhaps twice, during the year) she hung it in her best apartment. When I enquired for my bed, she opened a small square door on one side of the room, and upon holding the candle to the opening, I beheld a narrow, and dark cavity in the wall, which much resembled the shape and dimensions of a coffin. In this nauseous hole was thrust some dirty bed linen, amongst which I was informed her visitors of distinction usually dwelt for the night, and which I was then to occupy.

Having made as good a meal upon part of the sheep, and some potatoes, as Scotch filth

would allow, I dismissed the old woman, who attended me with too much assiduity, and was preparing to creep upon my hands and knees into the recess in the wall, where my bed was deposited, when a very loud knocking was heard at the door of the inn, together with the confused noise of many voices below the window of my room. I opened the casement and looked out, but such was the impenetrable darkness of the night, that I could not discern any particular object.

The knocking having continued with increased violence, and the noise of many harsh voices becoming more vociferous for admittance, my ancient hostess suddenly burst into my room, having no other habilliments to screen her *beauteous* nakedness, than a vile and ragged shift. In an harmonious voice, which united some of the most pleasing sounds imaginable, such as the croak of a raven, the hooting of an owl, and the harsh screams of a jay, she informed me that some of the lame soldiers from the fort had brought the dead body of a man, demanding immediate admittance to the stranger, (meaning myself) who had arrived that night; but, said she,

"God forbid that I, who am as good a christian as any breathing, should suffer a dead man to enter my house, for if I did, I'm sure and certain his ghost would never quit me unto my dying day, and my house would never know peace and quietness, and that's God's truth."

Not having any doubt that the old invalids of the fort, whom I had sent upon the search for the body of my poor guide, had succeeded in their undertaking, and that they had now arrived with his body, I told the old woman, in a very authoritative voice, that I insisted upon the immediate admittance of those without, and that if she did not choose to perform those commands I would myself break open the door.

Perceiving that I was resolute, the ancient harridan thought fit to obey, and forthwith opened the door. Instantly a whole troop of invalids, some without an eye, some without a leg, and others armless, rushed in, bearing upon their shoulders the body of a man, whom they immediately deposited upon the ground.

I had no sooner viewed the body than I recognised the unfortunate person of my hap-

less guide, who to all appearance was now stretched a breathless corpse before me. His eyes were sunk and fixed, but not closed; a white foam surrounded his mouth, and the livid paleness of death was upon him. Cold, wet, and stiffening, I ordered his once dignified form to be laid before a fire, while some of the poor old soldiers (who stood by, dripping water from their forlorn persons, and visibly affected by the melancholy spectacle before them) at my request engaged to rub him with warm cloths.

Upwards of an hour was spent in endeavours to recal a life which to me had become so precious, but which had now, too evidently, fled for ever to the eternal abodes of futurity. They were all vain, and with much sorrow our attempts were relinquished. It was with the greatest difficulty that my old hostess could be prevailed upon to suffer the deceased to remain upon her premises for that night, but the promise of reward had, at length, such an effect upon her, that she allowed it to be laid upon the floor of a back apartment, which was not in much use, and which was situated immediately under my

bed-room; observing that if his ghost did haunt that part of her house it would not be of much consequence, because scarcely any body ever, went there.

A serjeant of the invalids who was present, observed that the body must be carefully preserved for the inspection of a coroner, before whose inquest it must be taken on the following morning; and that to preserve it in some degree from the attacks of vermin, with which the house and indeed the whole neighbourhood swarmed to an unusual degree, it was proposed that we should place it in a large thick sack, which was used for the conveyance of potatoes, tie up the mouth, and deposit it in the room before mentioned.

This proposition meeting with the approbation of all parties, the body was carefully desposited in the sack, and placed upon the ground of the apartment proposed, which appeared to be used for no other purpose than as a receptacle for peat-turf. This ceremony being preformed, the door of the room fastened, and the poor soldiers being well supplied with whiskey, I once more retired to my own apartment, amidst the condolence of these honest people, who appeared to lame n

with great sincerity of grief, the death of the poor Highlander, whom it seemed was not unknown to my old landlady.

Fearing the attacks of vermin, I did not pull off all my clothes, but having placed my candle unextinguished upon the hearth, I crawled into the dismal hole, that was appropriated for my repose with my travelling cloak enfolded close round me. Labouring under the impression of so many melancholy circumstances as had befallen me on the preceding day, it was in vain that I waited for the happy approaches of sleep whose healing balm was denied to my agitated feelings, and in a feverish state of anxiety, I rolled to and fro in my narrow abode, until my fever had increased to a state of actual phrensy, and my imagination tortured me with a rapid conception of horrid images which I could scarcely endure.

In this miserable state of being, I suddenly heard or imagined I heard, a strange noise below, in the apartment immediately under mine and in which the corpse of the unfortunate Highlander was deposited. I listened with minute attention for its repetition, but all remained still as the abode of death for a considerable time, when as I was again relapsing

into my former mood of despondency, it was repeated with additional strange sounds unlike anything I had ever heard, and I listened with a degree of attention that nearly suspended animation, endeavouring in vain to account for its existence. At length, after a loud crash it ceased, and all was again silent as a tomb.

These unusual and unaccountable sounds had at once raised my curiosity and my fears to a violent conflict, I wished to be made acquainted with their cause, and yet my foolish fears for a long time prevented me; but, at length, perceiving my candle to be nearly consumed, I resolved to benefit by its light, and having worked up a strong degree of resolution, I seized the dying taper wrapped my cloak closely about me, and gently stole down stairs. All was perfectly still, when I arived at the door of the suspected apartment, and I stood for awhile undetermined whether to proceed or retire once more to my room, but imagining that I again heard some low indeterminate sounds within, I unlocked the door and rushed into the apartment. My candle threw but a faint and impartial light around, which rendered every object extremely dubious, however, I advanced towards the sack, which

had been desposited in the centre of the floor as being the first object of consequence to be examined, and held the light down to it.

But what was my surprise and astonishment, when I beheld a long slit made in the side of the sack which was now empty, and its late inhabitant removed! I started backwards, and gazed around with a stupid, fearful stare, in hopes and yet afraid of beholding some horrible object that should remove my fears, or increase my uneasiness.

In a remote and gloomy corner of the apartment, sitting upon a pile of peat-turf, I beheld the naked figure of a man, placed with his head rested upon his hands, while his eyes were steadily fixed upon all my movements. His features were not so far deathlike that I could not discover the lineaments of the generous Highlander, but a more horrid figure I never beheld than he appeared, sitting in an immoveable attitude in such a gloomy spot, while his body seemed almost covered with black dust from the peat upon which he sat.

My fears were far from being abated upon the discovery of this miserable and shocking spectacle. My mind was enervated by the conflict-

ing emotions of grief, pain, and anxiety, I had undergone, and was consequently rendered more liable to the impressions of superstition, whose baneful influence now too evidently affected my mind. Although my eyes remained rivetted upon the figure before me, I gradually retreated towards the door, which being perceived by him he slowly arose and advanced forwards with the same gradual steps, by which I retired, observing an exact distance between us. When I stopped, he stopped, and when I retreated he advanced, until my fears were increaced to a most violent degree, and at length I flew with vast precipitation to my own apartment and threw the door after me with all the violence of confirmed despair, but the figure still followed, and also burst into my room, standing before me with an expression of countenance and in an attitude of terror that at once annihilated all the remaining stock of my resolution, and I sunk down upon a chair almost in a state of complete insensibility.

The figure instantly advanced, and throwing himself upon me, he seized me round the waist and endeavoured to support me.

This maneuvre at once recalled my scattered senses, and I thrust him from me, de-

siring in a faint voice, to know what he would have, and why he pursued me in such an alarming manner. He immediately replied, with the utmost simplicity, but in a very languid tone of voice, that when he recovered from the dreadful state under which he had so recently laboured (and which, indeed, appeared to me to be positive death), finding himself confined in a sack, he tore it open, and escaped from it, but was lost in astonishment at the disagreeable singularity of his situation when I entered the room. He instantly recognised me, but my strange motions, and wild expressions of countenance, having alarmed him, he watched me with minute attention, and seeing me retreat under such evident perturbation, and being ignorant of the cause, he followed me in the manner I had witnessed.

Conceive if you can, the exquisite sensations of delight which I experienced from this account, and the certainty of this man's being restored to existence. Oppressed as my mind had been by the painful idea that I had been the cause of his untimely and dreadful death, no intimation could

have created so much joy, and unspeakable happiness in my heart, as the positive assurance of his re-animation. In the fervor of my gratitude to Almighty God, I could not resist the emotions of pleasure which danced around my heart, and I clasped the honest Highlander in my arms.

The poor man seemed equally affected with myself, and shed abundance of tears. Never, at any period of my life, have I felt my heart so melted and overwhelmed by sensations of joy and gratitude as at those moments when I strained him to my bosom. They were emotions which the good and virtuous alone can feel. They were the peculiar rites of sensibility, and I valued them as such.

I now informed this generous rustic of all that had befallen him, both at the time, and since his dreadful accident, together with the particulars of his situation in the apartment from which he had followed me. He was surprised at the relation, but instantly recognised his present abode, informing me that he was well acquainted with the mistress of the house, to whom I desired he would go, that he might obtain some refreshment, and leave me for

the night, that I might obtain some repose; but perceiving that he was extremely languid from the effects of his late misfortune, I was obliged to support him into the kitchen, where I left him with the old woman of the house, and retired myself to bed.

The morn was beginning to dawn in the east, when I again retired to my miserable cabin to sleep, and I felt so weak from the fatigues both of body and mind which I had experienced, that I was soon buried in profound slumbers, which continued until a late hour in the forenoon of the succeeding day, when I awoke, and rose much refreshed, and at ease in my mind. The occurrences of the past day appeared now only with their pleasurable features, while the unfortunate particulars being past, without leaving any materially bad consequences behind, were contemplated without pain.

After having made a hearty breakfast, in company with the honest Highlander, and having well rewarded him for all the sufferings he had undergone, I took my leave of Fort Augustus, and proceeded towards Fort William, on my way southward, ruminating

on the vast variety of scenes and events which "active man engage."*

"Life is but a day at most,
"Sprung from night, in darkness lost;
"Hope not sun-shine ev'ry hour,
"Fear not clouds will always low'r.

"As youth and love with sprightly dance,
"Beneath thy morning star advance,
"Pleasure with her siren air
"May delude the thoughtless pair;
"Let Prudence bless enjoyment's cup,
"Then raptur'd sip, and sip it up.

"As thy day grows warm and high,
"Life's meridian flaming nigh,
"Dost thou spurn the humble vale?
"Life's proud summits would'st thou scale?
"Check thy climbing steps elate,
"Evils lurk in felon wait:
"Dangers, eagle-pinioned, bold,
"Soar around each cliffy hold,
"While chearful peace, with linnet song,
"Chaunts the lonely dells among.

"As the shades of ev'ning close,
"Beck'ning thee to long repose;
"As life itself becomes disease,
"Seek the chimney-nook of ease.
"There ruminate with sober thought,
"On all thou'st seen, and heard, and wrought;

* This Tale on account of its length cannot be continued in this Volume; but in the third it will again be pursued and finished; particular circumstances having obliged the Author to continue the Travels of Abdallah in this place.

" And teach the sportive younkers round,
" Saws of experience, sage and sound.
" Say, man's true, genuine estimate,
" The grand criterion of his fate,
" Is not, art thou high or low?
" Did thy fortune ebb or flow?
" Did many talents gild thy span?
" Or frugal nature grudge thee one?
" Tell them, and press it on their mind,
" As thou thyself must shortly find,
" The smile or frown of awful Heav'n,
" To virtue or to vice is giv'n.
" Say, to be just, and kind, and wise,
" There solid self-enjoyment lies;
" That foolish, selfish, faithless ways,
" Lead to the wretched, vile, and base.

" Thus resigned and quiet, creep
" To the bed of lasting sleep;
" Sleep, whence thou shalt ne'er awake,
" Night where dawn shall never break,
" Till future life, future no more,
" To light and joy the good restore,
" To light and joy unknown before."

THE

TRAVELS OF ABDALLAH

CONTINUED.

"Heavens! what a goodly prospect spreads around,
"Of hills, and dales, and woods, and lawns, and spires,
"And glittering towns, and gilded streams, till all
"The stretching landscape into smoke decays!"

SECOND EVENING.

THE

TRAVELS OF ABDALLAH

CONTINUED.

"The sun has lost his rage: his downward orb
"Shoots nothing now but animating warmth,
"And vital lustre; that, with various ray,
"Lights up the clouds, those beauteous robes of Heaven,
"Incessant roll'd into romantic shapes,
"The dream of waking fancy! Broad below,
"Cover'd with ripening fruits, and swelling fast
"Into the perfect year, the pregnant earth
"And all her tribes rejoice."——

THE far-famed and magnificent city of Ahmedabad, the metropolis of the ancient kingdom of Guzerat, having been conquered and retained by the British armies, under the command of General Goddard, I could not resist the ardent inclination which I felt to visit a place once so celebrated for its grandeur, its population, and its commerce; and which, indeed, even unto this day, is possessed of the most valuable remains of Mogul splendor and unbounded magnificence, in a superior degree to any other city of the western pro-

vinces of Hindostan, and as Abdallah must of necessity pass through it, in his way to Agra, I conceived it to be a fine opportunity of gratifying my inclination. I was the more determined upon this journey by the ardent attachment which I had already formed for that truly venerable and learned man, in whose society I continued to derive so much of delightful instruction and amusement, that I felt very unwilling to part from his company; accordingly I proceeded with him to Broache, from whence we intended to pursue our journey northwards.

Every thing being prepared for our journey, we left Broache as soon as the intensity of the sun's heat was allayed by the cool and refreshing zephyrs of evening. Being late in the rainy season the roads were rendered so extremely heavy and bad that it was with much difficulty we were able to reach the town of Ahmood about twenty miles from Baroche, where we arrived about eleven o'clock in the night and remained there until the following morning.

The most agreeable time of the year for traveling in India, is about six weeks or two months after the rainy season, when every part of that

rich country is arrayed in the most beautiful verdure. The scenery is then most exquisitely charming and interesting while the roads are very good.

The Boukie, and the Nyar, are the names of the only two rivers which flow between the towns of Broache and Ahmood. The first, during the rainy season, is a very rapid stream, whose current being confined in a narrow channel, is there extremely impetuous. The latter is of a considerable breadth and of a more gentle course. Both these rivers had left their beds nearly dry at the time we passed them, consequently we could not form any just idea of the magnitude of their waters.

The general soil of the Ahmood Purgunna, is of a very rich and black kind of mould which, produces in great luxuriance, cotton, rice, wheat, and a large variety of Indian grains unknown in Europe.

The town of Ahmood which is the capital of this district, is large and unfortified. Part of it belongs to, and is in the possession of the Honourable Company, who maintain there a small Gurry, or fortress, which is of no great strength. The other part of the town belongs to a

Gracia Rajah, who takes the liberty of claiming a very considerable part of the revenues arising from the Purgunna. The company's produce, or collections, do not amount to more than a lack of rupees, that is about twelve thousand pounds sterling, per annum. One of their civil servants, or magistrates, who occupies the post of collector for this district, occasionally resides at Ahmood. In this town, or neighbourhood, there is very little worthy of regard, if I except a large and beautifully rural lake, which is surrounded by large trees, that afford a most delightful shade during the heat of noon, to the numerous tribes of animals that resort to it when the beams of the sun become insupportable.

At an early hour on the following morning we renewed our journey, and crossing the river Dahder, about three miles from Ahmood, we enterred the Jamboseer Purgunna. The prospects that were here presented to our view, were very different from those we had been accustomed to behold, either in the districts of Broach, or Ahmod. There we had seen very few trees (which are so indispensibly necessary to form a beautiful, or indeed

a pleasing prospect) except in the near vicinity of villages, and we saw but very few inclosures. But in the Purgunna of Jamboseer, the landscapes were rendered extremely beautiful and interesting, by numerous inclosures of small, but rich parcels of land, which were intermingled with luxuriant groves of mango, tamarind, and Banian trees, so as to produce the most enchanting effect.

The soil of that part of the Jamboseer Purgunna, through which we were now travelling, is light, and of a very fertile quality, which the uncommon luxuriance of the vegetation every where evinced, and is more especially favourable to Juarry, Bajeree, and some other grains, with whose names I am not familiar. The lands that are situated more to the westward of this district, have a rich black soil, which produces immense crops of wheat.

This district has been in the possession of the company for more than six years, and the gentleman who now resides there, has (from his great and meritorious attention, and encouragement to the cultivators) rendered all the villages extremely rich, flourishing, and

populous. So assidious has been the attention of this truly distinguished character, that he has given to the whole face of the country the appearance of one continued, and beautiful garden, and all has been done by his judicious patronage to that class of the community which are best fitted for the cultivators of land; I mean the lower orders of the people. Without any cruel or unnecessary oppression, the company now derives a revenue of five lacks of rupees, or sixty thousand pounds sterling, a sum which is truly astonishing when the small extent of the province is considered. Would not many of the petty provinces of Europe be glad to exchange the revenues of their principalities for those of Jamboseer? I think some might be found amongst the Germans, who would willingly make such an exchange. Let all such abolish their tyrannical laws, and protect and encourage the lower classes of their people, and peace and plenty will smile upon them.

Jamboseer, the capital of the district of the same name, is situated about seven miles from Ahmood. It is about two miles in circumference, and is surrounded by a miserable

wall of mud, that would be of very little assistance to the protection of the town, but the gurry, or fortress, which has lately been put into most excellent repair, may bid utter defiance to any Indian enemy, unless they are well provided with good artillery, capable of conducting a regular siege. Yet the situation of this fort is singular, and appears very unfavourable for the defence of the town; it stands in the center of a crowded town, by whose houses it is entirely surrounded. But notwithstanding this apparent inconvenience, the cavalier towers of the fort are very lofty, and command not only the town, but a noble extent of most beautiful prospect.

Some of the houses in Jamboseer are built after the Hindoo style, and are large, commodious, and exceedingly convenient, but to us they appeared entirely devoid of taste or elegance. The rooms are small, dark, and have their ceilings very low, while the stairs that lead to them are most inconveniently narrow, and very steep. On one side of the town there is a fine extensive lake, whose verdant banks are adorned by beautiful groves of mango and banian trees, which overshadow

several caravanseras and elegant pagodas, whose lofty domes and spires beautifully intermingle with, or peep over the luxuriant foliage, while the whole scenery is reflected on the placid surface of the crystal waters below.

The Brahmins, who dwell in or about these pagodas, are a very harmless and inoffensive race of men. Their lives are spent in the most innocent pursuits, and so wholly devoid of offence, are all their vocations, that they are protected by the English, as well as the Mahometan governments of Hindostan. But so diabolical are the laws and precepts of Roman catholicism, that the Portuguese will not suffer these innocent (and in their way) devout people, to worship the Great Deity according to their own ideas of propriety, or to retain any of the Hindoo tenets, on their Indian settlements. An instance occurred very lately where the Portuguese destroyed an Hindoo pagoda, at Damaun, which a few devout, and very respectable Brahmins, had nearly finished by the permission of a former governor, who (although a catholic) had the happiness to possess a liberal and an enlightened mind.

How the mild spirit of christianity revolts at such horrid tenets, that could possibly set on foot so infernal a persecution which none but the most devilish minds could employ! There is no crime, however shocking to humanity and to religion, which a Roman catholic bigot will not sanction, and eagerly commit, if at all militating against his own hellish doctrines. But I rejoice in fervent thankfulness to the Supreme Being, and to the only God, that the living splendor of truth and reason is gradually doing away those clouds of darkness which have too long dwelt on the minds of a great portion of mankind, and which have been the cause of so much error and wickedness.

Having seen all that was worthy of observation in Jamboseer, and its vicinity, we took our departure on the evening of the day following after our arrival, and travelling through a pleasant and delightfully inclosed country, we arrived at the town of Guzerat about sun-set.

This is a large and populous town, containing very excellent houses. Most of the considerable ones are surrounded by walls of

a tolerable strength, which are built at the expence of the inhabitants, to protect them from the depredations of the Coolies, which are a class of people, that were formerly extremely insolent in the Jamboseer Purgunna.

Guzerat is situated at the distance of six miles from Jamboseer, and yields an annual revenue of thirty thousand rupees.

We next proceeded to Corelli, which is a very pleasant village, situated near the banks of the majestic Myhi. Our tents were pitched under the shade of some charming Banian trees, on the margin of a beautiful lake, where we passed the night.

We left Corelli before day-break, and in a short time had the satisfaction to reach the banks of the far-famed river Myhi, whose bed, at this pass, is not less than six miles over. The stream, indeed, even at the common spring-tides, is not more than two miles broad; but in great floods the waters entirely fill the bed or channel, and then form a most grand expanse of river, which gradually widens as it approaches the gulph of Cambay, into whose vast deeps it pours its mighty flood. At low water, in neep-tides, the

stream is so very shallow, that loaded carts and waggons pass through it without any difficulty.

We were enabled to reach the northern shore by seven o'clock, and we ascended them by the pass of Dewan, which is a narrow defile of rocks, scarcely a quarter of a mile in length. The rocky banks on each side of this road are upwards of thirty feet high in most places, and the passage between them is so very narrow that one cart only at a time can pass through it.

Here we were met by Jeejethoy, the nephew and the successor of Jallim Jallia, a renowned chieftain among the Coolies. The rajah, or prince of these free-booters, holds his residence at Ometah, which is the capital of their districts, and is situated a few miles to the eastward of the pass Dewan. These people, who are no more than a vast herd of lawless banditti, so far from having any idea of shame and disgrace being attached to the character of robbers, they deem their profession the most honourable that can exist in society, because they find it gives them such a great and wonderful superiority over

their neighbours. They are, at present, on friendly terms with the British, but notwithstanding this circumstance, we deemed it necessary to travel with an escort of twenty-five armed horsemen, and as many Arab and Scindian foot, to protect our persons and property, either from their insults, or those of the Cotties, who are another tribe of freebooters, that reside more to the southward of the Sabrematty, and who scour the country in large troops of horse, to plunder travellers, rob the villages of their cattle, and lay the whole country under heavy contributions.

From the known character of the Coolies, I was much surprised to find their lands in such a high state of cultivation, their villages large and populous, and their fields enclosed and planted with mangoes and tamarinds.

Pleased with the country, we rode a few miles through their domains, along the banks of the Myhi. When we entered the Cambay districts, we found them considerably less cultivated, and in a much worse state of improvement. This failure in so important a matter to the well-being of any state, as agriculture most undoubtedly is, I attribute solely to the arbi-

trary government of the present despotic nabob, whose laws are too cruelly oppressive to admit of any encouragement being held out to agriculture or to population.

This oppression appears more lamentably obvious, when the traveller every where observes such wonderful natural fertility of soil, that a small share of industry would doubtless render this country equally productive and luxuriant with any other part of India. The soil is generally of a light fertile kind, which produces in great plenty every species of grain peculiar to those provinces, which lie on that side of India.

At a small distance from Cambay, we passed some delightfully sloping eminences, which were chiefly covered by the richest groves of luxuriant trees, and which commanded most charming prospects over all the surrounding plains. I have been induced to mention this circumstance, because throughout the whole province of Guzerat, I have not observed one rising ground that could deserve the name of an hill, at least since I left that eastern chain of mountains which separate it from the more interior parts of Hindostan.

The richly verdant prospects, which through-

out this highly favoured country, are every where presented to the eyes of the traveller, afford him a continual fund of amusement, and render his journey, which would otherwise be dreary and tedious, a delightful source of pleasure and instruction.

On account of the heaviness of the roads, we did not arrive at Cambay until ten o'clock. I had visited this place about six years before, and it was then in a very ruinous state, but now it was more so, and is at present rendered one vast scene of desolation. The infatuated nabob still continues his violent oppression, and loses his inhabitants, who fly to other states in order to find that protection which they have in vain looked for from their own monarch. The milder governments of Jamboseer, and the neighbouring Purgunnas, usually afford assylums to such of the Cambayans as flee their country.

Wholly unmindful of the happiness of his subjects, and of the true interests of his successor, he consults only the immediate occasions of amassing wealth, without regarding, or cultivating those means, which could alone eventually ensure it. Oppression is always found to defeat its own ends. With respect to the nabobs

of India, it is particularly observable, and even in the more refined and civilized nations of Europe, it is found to have the same dreadful effects, of encreasing vice, destroying industry, and annihilating virtue, which alone can uphold any government for a long continuance. Those monarchs and princes of the earth, who suffer themselves to be blinded by an ungoverned sway of their lawless passions, and consult not the interests and happiness of their people, will one day or other find too late that the gnat can sting the lion too deeply.

From a long continuation of rigorous despotism, the Nabob of Cambay has ruined a once justly celebrated city; depopulated a rich and naturally luxuriant province; and rendered a few miserable wretches, who are yet too closely wedded to their native country, to leave it, comfortless and unhappy.

When he was made acquainted with our approach, he sent a very polite message, congratulating us upon our arrival at his court; and soon after, Myrza Mahommed, his naib or vizier, with several other principal Persians and Moguls, came to pay us a visit. We spent one evening with the naib, and were most splendidly en-

tertained after the Persian manner, with which I was till now unacquainted.

To this magnificent entertainment, Myrza had invited most of the principal Persians and Moguls of the court, with whose dresses, countenances, and conversation, I was much amused and interested. For some time before the supper was served up, the whole company sat upon a beautiful terras, laid out with great taste above the house, in order to enjoy the evening breeze, which is extremely refreshing after the sultry hours of the day are passed, and all the soft zephrs are scented with spicy odours, collected from the innumerable odoriferous flowers and plants which bespangle all the plains of India. Here we were amused by the fine performances of different sets of Hindoo and Mogul dancing-girls, whose beautiful persons, through thin and transparent dresses, exhibited most exquisitely moulded forms; and whose bewitching gracefulness of dancing, contributed not a little to our pleasure. These beautiful girls sung in the most soft and harmonious strains I have ever heard, and rendered our pleasure still more delightful. During this part of our entertainment, the attendants brought pistachio-nuts, almonds, and other dried

fruits, together with different kinds of excellent sherbet. The Persians appeared much to enjoy their Hookas, and maintained a most lively and interesting conversation. Most of them were of very distinguished families in Persia, and were not only men of great natural abilities, and well acquainted with eastern literature, but several of them were very well skilled in music, poetry, and painting, and evinced talents very far superior to any of the Asiatics with whom I have conversed.

It was about ten o'clock, when we descended into a large saloon to supper. This magnificent apartment was covered with the richest carpets, and was illuminated by waxen tapers, suspended in most elegant chandaliers of cut glass, whilst the walls were ornamented by rare and costly paintings, executed by Persian artists, which were descriptive of the soft and voluptuous manners and customs of their ladies and youths of distinction, who were here represented as reclining upon rich sophas, and indulging in all the transporting witchery of love and wine, amidst a vast variety of fruits, flowers, fountains, plates of ice, and many other luxuries, which hold out so many temptations to the Asia-

tics. This saloon was open to a spacious court, which was planted with small beds of flowers, disposed in very pleasing groupes, together with several canals and fountains, which cooled the air and had a very beautiful appearance. The scene which was here opened to my view, realized all those warm and luxurious descriptions, which are contained in the Persian and Arabian tales, in a much greater degree than any which I have seen in the east.

We were seated at a table in the upper end of the hall, after the English manner, while the Moguls and Persians were placed in two rows upon the carpet. The repast consisted of an astonishing variety of rich dishes, which were all intended to be eaten with rice. They drank sherbet only, in public, but they very frequently perform private sacrifices to the altar of Bacchus.

The Nabob being himself of a Persian family, has given protection to several of his countrymen, who were driven from their country by the late disturbances in that kingdom: and who are now settled at Cambay, where they meet with tolerable good treatment, when due allowance is made for the despotism of such an oppressive government. These refugees generally bring

with them a large assortment of pearls, and valuable jewels, into which the small remains of their shattered fortunes are usually converted, for the convenience of travelling. I saw a very fine collection of jewels and precious stones for sale, during my stay at Cambay, amongst which there was one very fine diamond, shaped like a prism, weighing one hundred and seventeen carats, and valued at twenty-five thousand pounds sterling. Although the size of this diamond is so great, yet it is very far inferior to one in the royal jewelry of Persia, which weighs two hundred and sixty-four carats, and is valued at four hundred and thirty thousand pounds. This imperial gem is of a fine shape, and is called by way of eminence "the hill of lustre!"—Another, in the same regalia, which is styled "the sea of lustre!" being of a more flat surface, is but little inferior to it.

Both of these inestimable jewels, formed part of Nadir Shah's plunder, when he conquered the province of Delhi, in his memorable invasion, in the year 1739. The riches he then carried off with him, were immense, and in real value amounted to upwards of seventy millions sterling. Amongst the most valuable of his

conquests was the celebrated Tuchr Taoos, or Peacock Throne, in which the brilliant plumage of that bird, was imitated by the most costly jewels, and was alone estimated at ten crore of rupees, or more than twelve millions sterling. After the assassination of Nadir Shah, all the plunder he had obtained from Delhi, was scattered abroad, and since the death of Carim Chan (one of his successors) it has been very widely dispersed.

Amongst the principal buildings of Cambay, there is a large Mosque and subterraneous pagoda, which deserve more particular notice, but not being permitted to enter them, I could only regard their exterior decorations, which were extremely magnificent and extensive. To the westward of the city, are a number of very elegant tombs, and splendid mausoleums, which the Nabob was then destroying for the purpose of obtaining their marble, and other valuable materials, for the use of his own private buildings, which was an act of despotism beheld with the utmost horror by his Mahometan subjects; but whatever their thoughts might be, prudence dictated a strict silence on so delicate a matter, as questioning the rights of their despot.

After remaining a few days at Cambay, we took our leave of that declining city, at a very early hour in the morning, and reached the village of Sejeutra, which was fifteen miles distant, by eight o'clock. At this place we pitched our tents, amongst the trees of a beautiful grove of tamarinds, which grew on the margin of an extensive lake, and under their refreshing shade, we passed away the sultry hours of noon.

The country through which we were travelling, was well enclosed, and in a very high state of cultivation, having numerous picturesque plantations of mangoes, tamarinds, and kirneys, which latter are luxuriant and widely spreading fruit-trees, that much adorn the inclosures. The high road leading to Ahmedabad, is broad, but very heavy, on account of the light sandy soil of which it is principally composed.

Sejeutra, which is a pleasant and very populous village, is situated in the Pitlad Purgunnah, and belongs to a set of dancing girls, who very frequently have whole villages and extensive lands given to them by the Princes of India, whom they have doubtless pleased in more vocations than merely dancing, to obtain such great rewards.

Soon as the sun was descending from his glorious career, through the deep azure of heaven, and was lowering his golden car towards the verge of the horison; we renewed our journey, and passed through Bossu, another large village of the Pitlad Purgunnah, but which afforded no objects particularly attractive.

We travelled by moonlight through a very charming country, and about nine o'clock arrived at Kaira, a considerable town, possessing some strong fortifications, which was in the possession of Futty Sing. This town stands upon a beautiful eminence near the confluence of the two rivers, Wartruc and Serrie, which are both branches of the Sabrematty. We forded the Serrie, and encamped for the night on the banks of the Wartruc.

On the following morning we arose with the dawn, and proceeded towards the city of Ahmedabad. We crossed the river Wartruc which was then fordable in most places. The contry between Kaira and Ahmedabad, is not so well cultivated as that we had passed through on the preceding day. This apparent neglect to the agriculture of the country is principally caused by the ravages of an herd of plunderers who in-

fest it, and who are perpetually making their destructive incursions. The soil is extremely good, and capable of the highest state of improvement. The villages are mostly large, pleasantly situated, and exceedingly populous; having their houses usually built of brick and timber.

Scattered hamlets, which frequently have such pleasing effects in the landscapes of other contries, could not exist in most of the provinces of Hindostan. Men are here obliged to herd together, and unite in small towns, to enable themselves to withstand the attacks of the numerous tribes of Banditti that infest the whole country. Were there any little cots, or lone hamlets, scattered about at some distance from each other, in the manner of those which have such a beautiful effect in many parts of England, they would very soon fall a dreadful sacrifice together with their inhabitants to such merciless plunderers as the Coolies, and Cotties, and many other tribes of robbers who have their dwellings and their haunts in all the adjacent wiles. This fact alone would be sufficient to prove the inadequacy and the iniquity of the Hindoo governments. Those vast plains which are yet in an uncultivated state, are in many parts covered by the thickest woods, which abound with tygers, leop-

ards, wild hogs, jackalls, foxes, hares, elks, deer, and a few antelopes, of a very beautiful and rare species, which are nearly of an entire white; besides these, an infinite variety of monkeys abound in all the trees, which added to the innumerable tribes of peacocks, waterfowl, and singing birds, unite in forming one of the most pleasing pictures of animated creation, I ever beheld, while the deep and cloudless azure of heaven above, and the exquisite verdure of the plains beneath, everywhere adorned by flowers of the most beautiful hues and variety of shape, adding the sweetest odours to the soft gales that play through the spicy air, render the scene perfectly enchanting.

This is not a partial view of the scenery which is presented to the eyes of the traveller, while passing through the plains of Guzerat. He is every where greeted with the most charming and fascinating prospects; with almost a perpetual variety, while wandering through those verdant plains which are fertilized and beautified by the noble rivers, Myhi, Nerbedda, and Tappee, whose waters are of vast extent and consequence, while the Sabrematty and a great number of smaller streams roll their limped currents through this favoured country.

Such is the general face of the province of Guzerat, in its natural and uncultivated state. But this is not all; the genius and industry of man though labouring under the most cruel, oppressive, and despotic governments, have nevertheless done much towards rendering this country as interesting for its civilized state, as it is for its natural beauties. It abounds with many large and commercial cities, which are all the capitals of smaller districts, abounding with populous villages, and in most places exhibiting the highest state of cultivation. Its chief productions are various, abundant, and consequently cheap. Wheat, barley, rice, and every species of Indian grain, thrives with great luxuriance in every soil. Cotton, indigo, and tobacco, are so genial to the soil and climate that they require very little care from the planter to bring them to the greatest perfection, and by their sale in foreign nations, enrich him in a ten-fold degree.

Nature indeed in this golden clime, seems alike favourable to the growth of those animals which are in a domesticated state. The oxen that are the natives of the northern parts of Guzerat, and which are sent to every part of the

country, are of a gigantic size, and of an amazing strength. These are usually employed in the drawing of carriages, in the caravans of rich merchandize, in every mode of agriculture, and in a great variety of other services, perhaps equally important.

Horses are seldom or never put to any of these employments, although they have a very good breed in India, or at least in most parts of it. These noble animals are usually reserved for the cavalry; which are retained in the military services of the Indian monarchs and chieftains.

About sixty miles north of the city of Ahmedabad, there is a breed of wild asses, somewhat differing from the zebras of Africa, though they are equally elegant in their shape and symetry of their limbs. They are indeed of a smaller size and of a bright dun colour, having a broad stripe of dark brown from the head to the very extremity of the tail, and faintly shaded streaks down the other parts of the body and legs. Their coats or skins are soft and very smooth, the countenance animated, and their eyes very brilliant and lively. They appear strong and are very fleet.

At seven o'clock we arrived at Betwah, which was

formerly a part of the suburbs of Ahmedabad, but which is now merely a detached village, situate at a few miles distance from the city walls. Here we were shewn a large square, containing several elegant temples or mausoleums which were beautifully executed in marble and stone, that was covered with a white stucco, having a very superior polish. The pillars that supported the domes, were light and elegant, and the carved fretwork, contained in the concave of the dome, with the marbled mosaic of the pavement, seemed alike executed in an excellent taste. The paintings on the windows exceeded the most celebrated I have seen in the cathedrals or episcopal churches of Europe, at least in the smaller compartments, for here there was none of those bold and lofty arches which in the latter allow of such superior disposition of subjects and figures.

The small domes by which each of the tombs are covered, are formed of fine marble, most curiously inlaid with beautiful foliage and festoon of flowers, made of what is commonly terme mother-of-pearl, which are executed with all th neatness that is displayed on the lids of Eur pean snuff-boxes. The interior of these tom

are adorned with gold and silver stuffs, strewed with jessamines and other fragrant flowers, and are hung round with lamps that are kept perpetually burning by the Faqhirs and Dervises, who are maintained there for those and similar services.

As the day became extremely warm, we were obliged to quit Betwah somewhat earlier than we wished, and travelled to Ahmedabad through a tract of rich country, which was once covered with crowded streets and populous mansions but which was now a cultivated plain filled with trees and verdure, except where the yet splendid ruins of some falling mosque, or mouldering palace, rose to our view, and served in some measure to give us an idea of their former magnificence, now for ever passed away. These remains of public buildings increased in number as we approached the city, until the latter part of our journey was continued over whole acres of splendid ruins. We were much surprised at scarcely meeting with one single inhabitant of the city. No solitary being now dwelled amidst the grand scene of untimely desolation: "No sad historian of the mournful plain" could we meet with to inform us of the rise and fall of those magnificent structures,

—— "Now obscur'd
"By sorded moss, and ivy's creeping leaf:
"The princly palace, and stupendous fane
"Magnificent in ruin nod; where time
"From under shelving architraves hath mow'd
"The column down, and cleft the pond'rous stone."

At nine o'clock we reached this famous city, which is now only five miles in circumference. It is surrounded with an high wall, having towers at about fifty yards distance from each other, after the usual modes of Indian fortifications.

Here are twelve principal gates, and some smaller ones used as sally ports. Those of the latter are near the river, and are kept open for the use of the inhabitants.

The city of Amedabad is most delightfully situated on the banks of the river Sabrematty, whose waters wash its western walls. The city together with its suburbs we were informed formerly measured twenty seven miles in circumference. Thevenot and other European travellers, who visited it in the last century, mention its being at that time seven leagues, and even now wherever we turned our eyes, for several miles round, we beheld lofty minarets, falling palaces, ruined aqueducts, which at once bespoke its for-

mer extent and vast magnificence. It was then enriched by commerce, peopled by industry, and adorned by superabundant wealth. But its glory has long since faded away, and is now lost amidst its ruin and desolation. Long wars and oppressive governments have produced its hasty decline, and will soon sweep over its total annihilation.

Many of the streets are broad, but not now planted with trees on each side as Mandelslae and others mention, as having formerly been the case, neither are any of them paved. The triumphal arches in the principal street, the grand entrance to the Durbar, several of the Mosques and other public buildings of the Puttans and Moguls, yet remain as monuments of their vast splendour and magnificence. The streets were spacious and regular, the mosques, aqueducts, courts of justice, and public wells on a grand scale, and well disposed.

When a splendid court was held in this city, and so many of the most distinguished nobles accompanied the imperial princes, every thing was conducted with that grandeur which so eminently distinguishes eastern potentates, but more especially those who have unlimited controul

and power. But now it exhibits a strange mixture of Mogul splendour and the wretched taste of the Mharattas. We very frequently saw a small ill-fashioned door or a window having wooden bars, fixed into a bold arch, filled up with mud or cow-dung. The whole city presents this unpleasant picture.

But the awful spectacle of magnificent palaces and other monuments of human powers and human grandeur now lying in gigantic ruins; or the still more melancholy state of a rapidly declining commerce, form not all the miseries or the calamities that await the inhabitants of Ahmedabad. In that city, there are too many instances of unfortunate Patan and Mogul families, who, having survived the splendour of their houses, live now in the dismal gloom of an unmerited obscurity, where, shrouded in the torn mantle of poverty, they feel the most bitter pangs of want. The young men, indeed, of such unfortunate families, can and do go abroad to more propitious climes, and improve their fortunes; but it is not so with the aged, the infirm, and the softer sex. These, who have seen happier days, who have been accustomed to all the comforts, and indeed all the luxuries of life, are unable to dig, and to beg,

they are ashamed. Their jewels, and household furniture, and ornaments are then sent out, (as the last resource) and disposed of privately, and to a great disadvantage, in order to obtain a present subsistence.

I have seen many parts of a Mogul paraphernalia thus purchased, without knowing the name or family of the vender. A little time ago a small looking glass, that was set in an entire piece of agate, inlaid with a golden foliage, and flowers formed of small rubies, was sold for ten rupees. I wished to be the purchaser, as it would have been esteemed a curiosity in my own country, but was too late.

Those which could refuse their pity to such unfortunate beings, must indeed be devoid of all feeling for the miseries of their fellow-creatures. In the case of these hapless families, many allowances ought to be made for their incapacity to gain a livelihood. They have never been accustomed to labour, and have never known one single want, and consequently are unable to bear up against the cravings of poverty when they are ignorant of the means to prevent it. In that quarter of the world, where it has been their lot to

be cast, they have never experienced the happy effects of that secret charity which marks the characters of a few worthies in our own highly favoured isle. There, indeed, the cares of the sons and daughters of adversity are ofttimes lightened, and their sorrows alleviated by the silent, yet effectual exertions of a few generous and noble minds, whose greatest delight is to wipe away the sorrowing tear from the eye of affliction, and by their benevolence and their bounty, cause the widow's heart to leap for joy! These are virtues which are unknown to the affluent in India, who seem to have all their souls engaged in the aggrandisement of their wealth, and are unacquainted with the secret rewards of virtue. They know not that those who shall have pity on the poor, and relieve their sorrows shall be blessed, or that the merciful shall obtain mercy.

The sultan Ahmed, who was the founder of this city, enriched it with various public buildings, of great consequence and extent. Amongst others which owe their origin to that mighty monarch, is a most magnificent mosque, which is called after his own name,

and cannot fail to attract the attention of all strangers who visit this interesting place.

It is situated in the center of the city, and is adorned by two very lofty minarets, that display a light and very elegant architecture. A circular staircase within leads to the top of each, from whence the astonished beholder commands an admirable view of the city, and all the adjacent country, to a vast extent; having the whole river Sambrematty winding through the verdure of the plains, till its broad surface is lost to the view, amidst the blue mist of the distance. The large domes of this mosque are supported by a great number of lofty columns, regularly disposed, but in somewhat too crowded a manner to have an elegant or sublime effect. The Mosaic, and fret work, contained in the interior of the domes is rich, and very highly finished; the whole pavement is of fine marble, and the arches at the entrance are bold, grand, and magnificent. The building stands on the west side of a spacious square, and is surrounded by a covered piazza, supported by pillars, and ornamented with small cupolas. This area is

spacious, paved, and has the center adorned by a small canal, and beautiful fountain.

A little to the eastward of this mosque stands a mausoleum, containing the tomb, and the ashes of the sultan Ahmed, together with two of his sons, which are very richly decorated. At a small distance from this mausoleum, is a separate burying-ground, inclosed by very high walls. In this place of graves there are no temples, but in their stead, large and shady trees spread a verdant canopy over the marble tombs of the sultanas, princesses, and favourite enuchs of the royal haram; who are there interred. In all these sacred dormitories; Faquirs and holy men are perpetually employed to take care of the tombs, and to trim the lamps which burn upon their shrines, and which are never permitted to be extinguished. For this (in their sight) important service, they are endowed with lands, or some other permanent fund for their maintenance.

The mosque that was erected by Suzad Chan, although inferior in size, and not so magnificent as many others, is, in my opinion, the most chaste and truly elegant building in the city. It is built of a white transparent

charming effect. Here too is a very curious palmira, or brab-tree, branching out into forty or fifty separate boughs, each of which is furnished with a large tuft of spreading leaves at its extremity. This tree has a very beautiful appearance, and is esteemed a very great natural curiosity, as the palmira in general, like the cocoa-nut tree, has only one straight stem, bearing a single tuft of leaves on the top.

A bridge of forty-eight arches affords a communication to the island from one side of the lake, which, together with the ruins of a summer-house, surrounded by a kind of fortification, has a pleasing effect.

The Dutch have a burying ground near the margin of this lake, which contains several very elegant tombs, some of whose inscriptions are dated from the beginning of the seventeenth century. They had then a considerable factory in Ahmedabad, that is now withdrawn. The British company had likewise a spot of ground allotted to them for a factory, but from some unknown cause it has never been established.

Manufactories of every kind of rich and curious silks, brocades, and cottons, were for-

merly encouraged, and carried on with great success in this capital, which was also (and about the same æra) famed for having the best workmen in gold, jewellery, ivory, and enamel work, and for bringing to perfection every species of refined luxury. Large quantities of indigo were made here, and several other branches of a valuable commerce carried on, which are now no longer in existence. Scarcely any traces of the extensive manufacture and commerce of Ahmedabad are now left to make known its consequence and its wealth, that was formerly equal, if not superior, to all the cities of the east.

If we may credit the assurances of the most respectable moguls, we shall find that this city, when in its most flourishing state, contained upwards of three million of inhabitants, a number almost incredible. There are now about three hundred thousand, two-thirds of whom are Mahometans, and the rest Hindoos; the Parsees not having yet settled here. This computation of the number of inhabitants, both in its former, and its present state, is very far below what the Cazee and Sciads inform us.

Nothing can be more illustrative of the mutability of all human grandeur, and human exertions, than the contemplation of those innumerable cities that have rose in every age, and every part of the earth, arrived at the highest pitch of human power, flourished for a while, decayed, and at length have been swept away into annihilation, leaving but an empty name behind. The reflection is melancholy and presaging, but it is instructive.

There is a grand mosque at Surcoza, a place that is situated about five miles distant from this city, on the opposite shores of the river Sambrematty. It is said to be an exact model of the holy temple at Mecca, which is so highly revered and deified by all true-believers. Here too is a building exactly resembling the square temple at Mecca, that is renowned over all Asia, not only for its vast antiquity, but also for the interesting circumstance of its being highly honoured and revered by the ancient Arabian poets, who were accustomed to decorate its walls by the most beautiful passages of their compositions, written in golden characters upon fine silk, where the men of letters, and the distinguished

nobles of the country, used to go and pay them divine honours. But when the Mahometan faith spread like the morning dew to refreshen all the plains of the east, the enthusiastic prophet persuaded his countrymen, and his followers, to cast off all remains of their iniquitous idolatory, and embrace his tenets, which he assured, and convinced them were true, immutable, and eternal.

No sooner was the Mahometan faith embraced by the inhabitants of the eastern empires, than the sacred altars, the golden images, and the inspired effusions of their poets were torn down from the walls of the temple of Mecca, which was almost as instantaneously dedicated to the True God, the Father, and the Protector of all good Musselmen.

When Mahomet extended his eyes over the eastern nations, in order to fix upon a spot which he should consecrate to his god, and to which he should command all his followers to go in holy pilgrimage once during their lives, in order to render themselves acceptable to him, he had fixed upon the walls of Jerusalem; but his thoughts suddenly descended from the regions of bliss, and the

breath of inspiration; to a nearer abode with worldly objects and worldly cares, he recollected that Mecca was situated in his own country, to which he immediately transferred the dignity he had intended to bestow upon Jerusalem, justly considering that the interests of his own country must be very materially benefited by so great a resort as it would doubtless be made, by the pilgrimage of such myriads of true believers as it was his ordination and his law should so journey thither.

Both the heavenly and the worldly speculations of Mahomed answered fully to his most ardent expectations. There are large annual caravans of commercial pilgrims who resort to Mecca even unto this day, where there is in consequence a very considerable trade carried on for several weeks. This conduct of the pilgrims betokens great judgment and good sense, for, according to the old English proverb, they "kill two birds with one stone." They administer unto the wants of the soul with the same enviable zeal they display in their worldly matters, and all is accomplished with one and the same trouble and expence.

We next visited and spent a day at Shake-

Baugh, which is a summer's palace and gardens, situated about two miles to the northward of the city, on the banks of the Sabrematty, built by the emperor Shah Jehan, when he was in the capacity of viceroy to this province. It is yet in very excellent repair, although it was finished in the sixteenth century, and has not now been inhabited for á considerable period. The principal saloon is spacious, and of a noble height; the walls are finished with the finest stucco, and the ceiling is painted and ornamented with great taste.

This hall occupies the whole height of the building, and the recesses from it lead to eight small octagonal rooms, four of which are below and four above. Each of the upper rooms have separate stairs, and they are all finished in the same splendid style as the grand saloon, having their walls (if possible) more beautiful than polished marble, and their ceilings painted in the mosaic style.

Under this building there are several subterraneous apartments, which in this hot climate must have afforded most delightful retreats, when the heat of the sun was too intense to admit of any exposure to the atmosphere.

On every side of the palace ran a small canal, which here and there threw up a number of beautiful fountains. Round this canal a fine terrace walk was raised to a considerable height, that afforded a most charming view; and below this terrace, on a parallel with the subterraneous apartments, were the flower-gardens overhanging the river, into which we descended by two flights of steps.

The principal pleasure-grounds and gardens were situated in the front of the palace, and extended to a great length towards the city. These were surrounded by an high wall, and presented scarcely any remains of their former magnificence, excepting the rows of large trees which adorned the spacious walks, and the ruins of fountains and other water-works, that were disposed with great taste throughout the grounds.

The zenana, or Sultana's palace, was situated at a small distance on thesame banks of the Sambrematty, having separate gardens, baths, and fountains, all of which are now in ruins. The apartments appropriated for the officers and servants of the court, are likewise detached from the royal palace. The scite of the whole is convenient and very delightful, and when Shake-

Baugh was in perfection, it must doubtless have been a splendid retreat for so voluptuous a prince as the emperor Shah Jehan; but it is now hastening with great rapidity in its decline, and must in a very few years share the same fate with all the other mouldering monuments of mogul splendour.

Notwithstanding I am a great admirer of fountains, shade, and verdure, wherever I meet with them in this sultry climate, yet the most pleasing Asiatic gardens which I have seen can make but a poor boast of those agreeable imitations of nature, artless shrubberies, sloping lawns, meandering walks, and that great variety of beautiful scenery, which characterises the gardens of England. The Indian grounds are laid out more in the Dutch style, which has too much of formality to please an enthusiastic admirer of nature.

About a mile from these gardens there is a large well, that was built by a nurse to one of the sovereigns of Ahmedabad, and which is yet called the Nurse's well. A noble flight of steps conducted us through rows of pillars and pilasters, all formed of hewn stone that were very elegantly finished, to the reservoir of water.

The well is lined with large stone, and is surrounded by galleries that have circular flights of steps leading to them, and a small dome, supported by eight pillars over each. These galleries severally communicate with the grand stair-case.

This public well, which is a noble monument of private charity, cost upwards of thirty thousand pounds in its erection. There are several traditional stories related respecting its origin. Some assert that it was built by the nurse I have mentioned, but others affirm that it owes its origin to a rich and beautiful dancing-girl, who built the whole with the price of one of the jewels which she wore round her ancle, and that she threw the other into the well to reward the search of those who should dive for it, but from whence it was never brought to light.

This anecdote, although very generally credited in Ahmedabad, I should be inclined to deem fabulous, and wholly inconsistent with the good sense and benevolent disposition of that celebrated woman, who also founded a splendid mosque at no great distance from the same well, in which her mortal remains are deposited, having a noble mausoleum erected over them.

The whole of the province of Guzerat has ever been considered one of the finest and most fertile throughout Hindostan. It formerly made a principal part of the domain belonging to the most ancient Hindoo rajahs. Nawalla, which was a city much famed for its wealth and population, was then the metropolis of the province. Guzerat was one of the first conquests of the Afghans, or Pattens, who were a very hardy race of men, and natives of those mountains which separate the Indian from the Persian nations, from whence they poured their thousands, like vast torrents, over the peaceful and fertile plains of Hindostan, conquering wherever they turned their arms.

These hardy warriors established the Pattan empire of Ghisni, about the 975th year of the Christian æra, and the 361st of the Mahometan hegyra; an empire which at one time comprehended one half of the provinces, or rather the kingdoms of Asia.

The Hindoos, having long been accustomed to effeminate practices, and rendered languid by the heat of their climate, or their natural love of indolence and ease, were unable to second the exertions of their rajahs, who had united in

one common cause to repel the furious progress of the northern invaders, but who were obliged to yield India an easy conquest. The most powerful of their cities, and the strongest of their fortresses, were soon reduced; their idols were destroyed, their sanctified pagodas were laid waste, and their temples and their altars were purified from the stain of idolatry, and in all the zeal of fanaticism were dedicated to the mighty Alla, the only true God.

War and bloodshed continued to rage between the Afghan myriads and the Hindoo rajahs of Delhi with their thousands, until the united powers of all the Indian nations of the north and of the west, were overpowered and subdued by Mahometan skill and Mahometan bravery. The Hindoos, effeminated by their unbounded luxury, and enervated by the soft, but destructive pleasures of their harams and their seraglios, knew not how to withstand the impetuosity of troops, who imagined themselves the elect of the great God, and that his own prophet shouted victory at their head, and the black-eyed houries looked out from heaven, in readiness to smile success upon their earthly career, or to receive them into their lovely and extended arms, should it

be their happy fate to expire on the ensanguined plain. Under such circumstances, no common efforts could make head against Mahometan fury, and the Indian powers were overwhelmed.

When the armies of Patan poured down their legions upon them from the mountains of the north, in the supineness of their measures, they promised obedience, and submitted to pay tribute to the conquerors. But no sooner were those invincible heroes returned to their native country with the laurels of victory encircled on their brows, than treachery reared his coward head amidst the Indian councils. The rajahs once more united in a mode of assisting each other with troops and money to repel the common enemy. Immense armies were instantly collected together, which were no sooner arrayed in proper order, than the faithless Indians refused to accede to the terms which but a short time before they had solemnly agreed to fulfil.

This glaring breach of faith immediately brought down the enemy from their mountains, like a dreadful whirlwind, whose course no impediment could stay. Bloodshed and destruction marked all their progress, and peace fled af-

frighted from her fertile plains, which soon exhibited nought but horrid scenes of slaughter; and, to use an emphatic expression of the East, the Afghans "drowned themselves and their enemies in the crimson torrent of revenge."

The astonishing quantities of gold, jewels, and other riches of every kind found at Nayracut, Sumnar, and some other of the Hindoo temples, as mentioned by the Eastern historians, exceed all the bounds of probability. We are told, that the Sultan Mamoad returned to Ghizni from one of his expeditions into Hindostan, with a spoil of fifty-three thousand captives, and three hundred and fifty elephants, laden with gold, silver, jewels, pearls, and other precious effects, to an amount very far beyond any accurate estimation. It is recorded that he made thirteen other expeditions equally successful into the rich provinces of Hindostan. We will allow a little for the exaggerations of Oriental writers, but there can be no doubt that the wealth which was amassed by that emperor must have been immense. It was generally buried in pagodas, where it was continuing to encrease for many successive ages. The Hindoos were returning

it to the bowels of the earth from whence it was taken, but the Pattan princes dispersed it abroad, and derived great benefit from it.

They adorned the city of Ghisni and several others of the principal places, with the most magnificent palaces and public buildings, triumphal arches, aqueducts, fountains, and mosques. The grand mosque erected at Ghisni, by the Sultan Mamoad, was eminently splendid. Its structure was most elegantly proportioned, so as to produce a light and airy effect; and its walls, columns, flowers, domes, and minarets, were formed of the most costly marble, and finest granite. The interior of the edifice was adorned with the richest hangings, superb paintings, carpets, and ornaments of silver and gold, and was illuminated by chandaliers made of massy gold.

This magnificent temple was named, the "Celestial Bride." The sultan likewise employed part of his spoils in founding an university, and providing it with a large collection of books, and a great variety of curiosities brought from the most distant countries. He endowed lands for the maintenance of those students, philosophers, and learned men, whom his bounty had

attached to his capital. The exertions of this truly meritorious monarch had the happy effect of inducing his Patan successors to emulate his noble actions, which were certainly worthy of his royal munificence.

It was chiefly owing to the great exertions and the patronage of this mighty emperor, that the arts and the sciences have since flourished, for a long succession of ages in many parts of Asia, but more particularly in the Persian empire, where they arrived at a very advanced state of perfection. I do not at present allude to the state of its ancient kingdom in the earliest ages, but of its situation since the establishment of Mahometism, when it gave birth to many distinguished men in arts, science, and literature; it sent forth to the eastern world some of the most celebrated historians for erudition and learning, which they have before, or since produced; the most beautiful and the most sublime of poets that ever tuned the lyre, or invoked the heavenly muses, and the most eminent men in every branch of the fine arts, learning or literature; and all this hitherto unknown excellence was arrived at long before the most celebrated

kingdoms, of the western world had emerged from the darkness, the barbarism, and the ignorance, of Gothic bondage.

It was not till towards the close of the thirteenth century, that the Mogul nations began to be troublesome in the northern kingdoms of Hindostan, where they very soon commenced hostilities, and made their first conquest in the Indian empire. But it was not till the year 1397, that the famous Timur, or Tamerlane, crossed the Indus, and ravaged the whole of the adjacent country. Those who would be inclined to form a just idea of this celebrated warrior, must not admit for truth that which Rowe has given to him in his excellent tragedy. His real character is widely different from that which the poet has drawn for him. Should the page of history record the truth alone, he will be represented as depopulating the most fertile and luxuriant countries, burning the most noble cities of the east, and as massacring and putting to the sword their wretched inhabitants, and for no other purpose than to gratify his unbounded rage of ambition, and cruel thirst of power, which could never be satiated. The same

page that would be found to record the injustice of his despotic and merciless power, would also paint him as wading through whole seas of blood in order to grasp the whole empire of Hindostan.

As an instance of the diabolical principles by which he was actuated, I will trouble my readers with only one instance, out of many others, which are more particularly mentioned by *Dow*. When the despotic, the ambitious, and the bloodthirsty Timur lay with a vast army before the citadel, and the walls of Delhi, he was vigorously attacked by the besieged. He had then in his camp upwards of an hundred thousand prisoners, whom he had made captives in his progress after he had crossed the Indus. Being informed that these helpless people had expressed a joy when he he was attacked, and being apprehensive that at some time or other they might join against him, this inhuman wretch gave immediate orders, that all those who were above the age of fifteen, should be put to the sword. In consequence of these dreadful orders, there were more than one hundred thousand captives massacred, in one day, and before the cool and

unimpassioned gaze of those infernal machines who acted under his command.

The city of Delhi was no sooner under his power, than this horrid monster caused a slaughter to be made of the wretched inhabitants, yet more cruel (if possible) than that which I have just mentioned. Such atrocious and hellish actions, very deservedly, obtained him the appellation of the "Hillak Chan," or the "destroying prince."

But notwithstanding this is the real character of that renowned chieftain and monarch, Rowe has immortalized a very opposite one, which he attributes to him when he calls him.

"The scourge of lawless pride, and dire ambition,
"The great avenger of the groaning world!
"Well has he worn the sacred cause of justice
"Upon his prosp'rous sword.—Approving Heav'n
"Still crown'd the righteous warrior with success;
"As if it said, go forth, and be my champion,
"Thou most like me of all my works below."

We will allow a poet to fulfil his almost divine authority, and paint in the strongest characters an ardent imagination can furnish, yet surely his effusions would be infinitely

more valuable if he built their exquisite structures upon the solid foundation of living Truth!

Historians do not date the final conquest of Hindostan until the year 1525, when the Sultan Baber, who was one of the descendants of the renowned Timur, entered the kingdom of Delhi, conquered all that opposed his progress, and at length assumed the sovereignty of the empire. His son, who was named Humaison, succeeded him. He was a very mild prince, and notwithstanding he continued those conquests which he had begun, many of the Patan governments preserved their independence for several years after.

The kingdom of Guzerat was not wholly subdued until the reign of Sultan Akbar, (who was one of the sons of Humaison) who conquered the city of Ahmedabad in the year 1572, during the reign of Mamoon, emperor of Guzerat. and who was the last Patan sovereign of that province, which was afterwards annexed to the Mogul empire, and was for many years governed by one of the royal family, and yet more recently by omrahs or nabobs.

The distant provinces of this extensive empire had scarcely shaken off their allegiance, and assumed the appearance of independent monarchs, than the viceroy of Ahmedabad and Cambay assumed the unlimited sovereignty of his domain. Mohman Chan, who is the present nabob of Cambay, was the last that bore the same title in Ahmedabad, having been driven from it about thirty years ago by the Mahratta troops, under the command of Ragonath Row. Upon his defeat in that city, he fled to Cambay, where he has since been obliged to sit down contented, with paying the Mahrattas a tribute out of the revenues collected in the Cambay district.

The city of Ahmedabad remained in the quiet possession of the Mahrattas until about fifteen months ago, when it was taken from them by storm, by the British forces under the command of General Goddard, and was soon after made over by treaty to Futty Sing Row Guicawar, an ally lately connected with the British interest. But notwithstanding that it is nominally made over to him, the British standard is displayed on the citadel of Ahmedabad, whose

garrison is likewise occupied by the Company's troops. This circumstance has given the new ally no small influence in the country, and has enabled him to collect his large share of the revenues of that province without the smallest opposition from the Mharattas, or any other country power who have been taught how to respect the British flag.

I will not trouble my readers (most of whom cannot be interested by the detail) with an account of the peculiar modes of division which was adopted by the Hon. Company and their new ally, Futty Sing, respecting their conquests, which I believe were all made by the British forces, unassisted by any other troops: I will only mention, that the extensive and fertile province of Guzerat was divided between them. Futty Sing was to possess all the country north of the river Myhi, which was to be his boundary southward; while the British were to be masters of the whole country between the Myhi and the Tappee, together with all the southern districts, including their former possessions at Broach and Surat.

My readers must excuse this long digression

from a description of the present state of this once famous capital of Guzerat, as I found it difficult to describe its present decay without adverting to its former state of splendour and magnificence; which also led me to touch a little upon the general history of Hindostan, during the monarchy of the rajahs, the Patan princes, and the establishment of the Mogul empire.

Notwithstanding the Indian nations have always laboured under the generally oppressive governments of the most arbitrary despots, yet at some peculiar times, when the empire enjoyed a degree of tranquillity, the arts, sciences, literature, agriculture, and industry, were encouraged, and flourished under the fostering patronage and auspices of the descendants of Timur, so long as they swayed the imperial sceptre.

The Emperor Jehangire gave the viceroyship of Guzerat to his son, the Sultan Currum, upon whom he afterwards conferred the bold and daring title of Shah Jehan, or, the "King of the World;" which he retained after his succession to the throne of the whole empire.

During the reign of this excellent monarch, the province arrived at a most flourishing state. His two sons, Aurungzebe and Morad, were afterwards appointed to the government of Ahmedabad, which city they very greatly improved, and beautified.

Notwithstanding the whole line of mogul emperors, from Akbar down to Aurungzebe, were extremely ambitious of foreign conquests, and of humbling of the pride of the most distant princes, yet in their own dominions they were particularly watchful over their internal prosperity. They not only encouraged agriculture, but all the useful arts, and attended in the minutest degree to an impartial administration of justice, even to the most remote of their extensive provinces.

It was in those days, and under their auspicious reigns, that all those magnificent structures, which now adorn the great cities of Hindostan, were planned and erected.

Palaces, bridges, aqueducts, mosques, and mausoleums, were suddenly seen to rise, and display the taste and the elegance of mogul splendour. The emperor Shah Jeran, who

was the founder of the palace and gardens which I have described, was celebrated for the extraordinary patronage with which he always encouraged every magnificent project. He built a tomb in the famed city of Agra, sacred to the remains and the memory of his favourite sultana, which cost his treasury the immense sum of seven hundred and fifty thousand pounds. This edifice is mentioned by all the European, as well as the eastern travellers, for its astonishing sublimity and magnificence.

During those ages, learning in all its various branches, and every species of refined art, were tenderly fostered by the Imperial court, where poets, philosophers, and historians, met with the same welcome reception, and where their works were universally read and admired.

If at any period of the world, despotic governments have possessed superior charms and allurements, it was surely under the reigns of the Mogul sovereigns, from that of Akbar to the close of that of Aurungzebe, in the present century. Yet even when arbitrary governments are considered, and seen in their most flourishing and happy state, they are se-

cretly attended with the most unhappy consequences.

Should it be the inclination and the wish of one of those despotic monarchs to reign with clemency, it does not often happen that it is in his power. The weight of the Imperial diadem has scarcely been felt upon his brow, than some secret confederacy is formed against the security of his throne, and of his life, which compels him to use the most arbitrary means, and even cruelties, to secure himself in his exalted situation. And these conspiracies are usually the offspring of jealousy and envy, which are set on foot by his brothers, and his nearest relatives, whom he must either destroy, or put out their eyes, unless he is willing to fall by the poison, or the swords of his enemies, in order to make room for a successor; who after having fluttered a few hours in the sun-shine of royalty, shares the same fate.

It is from these dreadful conspiracies that the historic annals of Hindostan are stained with the relation of crimes and cruelties that appear so shocking to humanity that fiends

alone could have perpetrated them. It is from such causes that the eastern historians have painted the road to the Imperial thrones of India, as lying through vast seas of blood. Yet with all these cruel obstacles in the road to power, we have seen the descendants of Timur, when once firmly seated upon the throne, administering equal justice, punishing oppression, encouraging commerce, fostering industry, and patronising all the finer arts of peace.

But after the invasion of Nadir Shah, and the great divisions of the empire, which immediately succeeded, few traces of those comparatively excellent governments are to be found. The city of Ahmedabad presents the same sad picture of ruin and desolation which is to be found in the once famed cities of Agra, of Delhi, and of Lahore; but as these are the immediate seats of government, and where all the splendid courts of the Moguls were usually held, the ruins, which are there found, must doubtless be more grand, superb, and magnificent.

I would fain have visited those celebrated cities, but they are too remote from our pos-

sessions to admit of a hope on that head; and I must remain content with having seen, and explored one that is but little inferior, and which, with this exception, displays more of the remains of Mogul splendour and magnificence than is to be found in any other part of Hindostan *.

* It is, perhaps, necessary for me to state, that this visit was made to Ahmedabad so late in the last century as the year 1781.

CONCLUSION

TO THE SECOND VOLUME

OF

THE WANDERER.

As I am now arrived at the close of the Second Volume of the Wanderer, it will be necessary for me to mention a few particulars respecting the progress of the work, before my readers take their final leave of that which is already written, and which has now been laid before the public.

It was my intention to have published four or five volumes of this work, successively; but I have been induced to defer the publication of the remaining volumes until those already presented to the world, shall have received a favourable sanction from that public, before whom I now stand waiting their decision. If this, my literary offspring, shall receive a smiling welcome, and a portion of that candour, which has ever characterized the patrons of British Literature, and which

shall enable its faults to be considered as those of the head, and not of the heart, I will go forward in the undertaking I have now begun, and continue the career of the Wanderer, through the various pages of succeeding volumes, until the infirmities of old age shall render its death inevitable; but if on the contrary, my claims to the approbation of that public, which alone can uphold any work, shall be deemed nugatory, or unjust, the growth of this ill-favoured child shall be impeded, and instantly cut off by the speedy hand of the executioner.

The rapid manner in which these volumes were written, and the irregular mode in which they have been printed, has produced many faults, which I am ashamed to own, but which cannot now be recalled or amended. The typographical errors are indeed proportionately few in number, and not of such material consequence to the welfare of the work, as some hasty and improper sentiments, or expressions, which I have too heedlessly admitted in the rapid progress of my writings. To enumerate those which I principally allude to, in this place, would be equally tedious as

unnecessary; but of this let me assure my readers, that should it be the fate of these volumes to undergo succeeding editions, I will diligently labour to expunge all that can be deemed obnoxious to refinement, to taste, and above all, to virtue. Believing my principles to be founded in truth alone, I am not conscious of having insulted the purity of true religion, or of having infringed on the laws of good morality. But, nevertheless, to those who cannot look beyond the contracted limits of generally received forms (and those are not few), I may appear to have gone far astray from the narrow path of rectitude, both as to my principles, and the mode of expressing them. Be that as it may, I again assure my readers, that in whatever I may seem to have erred, I have nought save the best of intentions in view. To discourage vice by exhibiting her native deformity; to render virtue more alluringly attractive by shewing, in some degree, the hidden beauties of her heavenly charms, and the eternal excellence of her inherent qualities; to aid (according to my ability) in dispelling the barbarism of ignorance, and the darkness

of superstition: and to use my utmost exertions in ameliorating the condition of my fellow creatures, have been the sole spring and motives for my writing. Such are the objects that I have had in view, and which I shall still retain throughout my succeeding volumes. If I am able to shake the foundation of any one ridiculous prejudice, to add in the smallest degree to the general stock of knowledge, or indeed to afford a species of interesting amusement to any of my readers, I shall feel fully gratified, and receive a full compensation for my labour.

"'Tis vain to seek in men for more than man."

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